

Security breakthrough over killing of Lance Bombadier Stephen Restorick

Man charged with three IRA murders over 19 years

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN was charged yesterday with three IRA murders in Northern Ireland over a 19-year period, including the shooting of Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick last February.

Martin McGinn, 39, from Castleblayney, Co Monaghan in the Irish Republic, was one of three men who faced a series of terrorist charges amid tight security at a special sitting of Banbridge Magistrates' Court, Co Down.

The men were arrested on April 10 during a massive anti-terrorist operation at a farm outside the village of Crossmaglen in South Armagh close to the border with the Irish Republic. Armed police and soldiers seized a .50 Barrett bolt action rifle, an AKM assault rifle and a quantity of ammunition.

McGinn, who was unshaven and had bruises on his face, denied the murder of Lance Bombardier Restorick, 23, in the village of Bessbrook, Co Armagh, in February. The soldier was shot by an IRA sniper as he manned a military checkpoint outside the village's security base.

Flanked by two RUC officers, McGinn sat impassively in the dock as he was also charged with the murders of Lance Bombardier Paul Garrett, 23, who was shot by an IRA sniper in Keady, South Armagh, in December 1993, and of Gilbert Johnston, 25, a former UDR soldier, who was shot by the IRA outside a sweet shop in Keady in August 1978.

During a lengthy hearing, McGinn's solicitor alleged that his client was beaten by soldiers when he was arrested last Thursday. The solicitor alleged that McGinn suffered injuries to his head, shoulders, eyes, arms and legs which needed to be treated with stitches and staples.

An RUC detective con-

firmed that McGinn was treated for injuries at Craigavon Area Hospital. He said: "I am aware at the time of the accused's apprehension there was a struggle. The accused was medically examined on his arrival in police custody. I cannot comment if the accused had been injured prior to his apprehension."

McGinn and the two other men, Michael Caraher, 30, from Cullyhanna, and Martin Mines, 29, from Crossmaglen, were each charged with a number of other terrorist offences.

The men, who appeared in court separately, were charged with conspiracy with others to murder a person or persons unknown on April 10; possession of a .50 Barrett bolt action rifle and an AKM assault rifle and a quantity of ammunition on April 10; and membership of the Provisional IRA.

Caraher was also charged with the attempted murder of a police officer in Forkhill, South Armagh, last month. Caraher was seriously injured when two Royal Marines fired 20 shots at his car as he allegedly sped away from a check-point in Cullyhanna in December 1990. His brother, Fergal, died in the shooting.

The three men, who denied all the charges, were remanded in custody until next month.

The American Barret "Light 50" rifle is one of the most deadly weapons in the IRA's arsenal, which was used in a series of sniper attacks on the security forces along the border in the early 1990s. The 50-long rifle was developed to penetrate armour.

Lance Bombardier Restorick was the first soldier to be murdered by an IRA sniper since December 1993. His death brought to 12 the number of troops and RUC officers killed by snipers since 1992.

James McArdle was flown from Ulster to London yesterday for questioning about the Docklands bombing

Anger over killer soldiers case

By NICHOLAS WATT

NATIONALISTS in Northern Ireland reacted furiously last night after Sir Patrick Mayhew announced that two Scots Guardsmen would have their life sentences for the murder of a Catholic teenager reviewed five years early.

In one of his last acts as Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick said that "exceptional mitigating factors" merited an early review of the cases of Mark Wright, and James Fisher.

The soldiers were jailed in February 1995 for the murder of Peter McBride, 18, in Belfast in 1992. Under normal rules their sentences would not be reviewed until 2002 when they would have served ten years.

However, the High Court in Belfast ordered the Northern Ireland Office last year to review their cases. Mr Justice Girvan quashed a decision by the office not to refer their cases to the Northern Ireland Life Sentence Review Board until 1998.

Dr Joe Hendron, who has been the SDLP MP for West Belfast for the last five years,

condemned Sir Patrick's decision as "disgraceful". Dr Hendron compared the soldiers' treatment to Sir Patrick's decision to release Private Lee Clegg two years after he was convicted of the murder of a Catholic joyrider. Clegg was freed after a high profile campaign by retired officers from his regiment.

Sir Patrick's statement last

night came after a similar campaign was launched on behalf of Wright and Fisher by senior members of the Scots Guards. In a joint letter to *The Times* earlier this month, Major-General Murray Naylor and Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, two senior retired Scots Guards commanders, called on Sir Patrick to review

their cases "as a matter of urgency". Retired guardsmen recently presented a petition on behalf of the jailed soldiers to Downing Street.

In a statement last night the Northern Ireland Office said that the Province's Life Sentence Review Board would consider the guardsmen's cases in October this year because of exceptional factors. The statement added: "Although Wright and Fisher committed a gravely serious crime, there are exceptional mitigating factors in these cases which indicate that an earlier first review is appropriate."

It went on: "These mitigating factors include the difficult circumstances in which the soldiers were operating in the course of their duty and the fact that there was no premeditation."

Sinn Fein last night condemned Sir Patrick's decision. Gerry Kelly, the convicted IRA bomber, said: "His decision is consistent with a British establishment which has always sought to protect its forces from the legal consequences of their criminal actions."

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Poussin sale

Continued from page 1

acquire Canova's *Three Graces*, the Californian institution found itself frustrated by the Government's repeated manipulation of the rules. The procedure may be easier this time because Britain boasts an extensive collection of Poussins: there are 13 at the National Gallery in London, one at the National Galleries of Scotland, which also has eight on loan from the Duke of Sutherland, and examples at the Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Michael Clarke, the keeper of the National Galleries of Scotland, said of *Tempus Calme*: "It's one of the most beautiful of his landscapes. It really is an absolute stunner. It would be sad if it left the country."

St Denis Mahon, one of Britain's most eminent scholars, said: "It's a splendid picture, a marvellous landscape." On hearing the estimated price, he said: "At that figure, there is little that British galleries can do. Presumably, the only way it could be retained would be if some device could be found for lottery money to be involved."

It was only in 1977 that the painting was attributed to Poussin (1594-1665). It was identified by Clovis Whitfield, a leading art historian and dealer, whose scholarly paper noted: "The character of the brushwork, the brilliance of the colour, and even the capacity to surprise, are all qualities we can immediately recognise as Poussin's own."

ITN wins apology on 'fake' claim

ITN and two of its journalists received a High Court apology yesterday over allegations that they deceived the public by fabricating news coverage of detention camps set up by the Bosnian Serbs.

Penny Marshall, Ian Williams and an ITN camera team were among the first reporters allowed into the camps at Omarska and Trnopolje in August 1992. Muslims were being held in appalling conditions. Reports on ITV and Channel 4 aroused international opinion to intervene in the Yugoslav conflict, and their reports received a number of awards.

In January this year Two-Ten Communications, a press-release distribution company, circulated a release from the journal *Living Marxism* about a forthcoming article by a German journalist, Thomas Deichmann. It said that images of barbed wire at the camps had been created by camera angles and editing, and had "fooled the world".

Two-Ten accepted that was untrue, and issued an apology with costs. Karen Mason, its solicitor, apologised for "very real distress and damage" to ITN and its reporters, and said: "Two-Ten Communications distributes releases word for word as provided by its clients, without any editorial input or amendment."

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 18 1997

NEWS IN BRIEF

Triple killer loses extradition case

The Irish High Court yesterday rejected an attempt by the triple killer Alan Reeve to avoid extradition to Britain. Reeve, 49, who is reported to have qualified as a lawyer while in prison in Holland for killing a policeman, escaped from Broadmoor special hospital in 1981. He had agreed to extradition yesterday but changed his mind and unsuccessfully sought a High Court order to restrain the Irish authorities from sending him back.

Turning down the last-minute application, Declan Costello, president of the Irish High Court, said he had concluded that there was no substance to the legal move and there was also no reality for making an order blocking the extradition. Reeve was sent to Broadmoor at the age of 15 for killing another boy and later was convicted of the manslaughter of a fellow patient in the hospital. Irish police said Reeve would be flown back to Britain today.

FBI help in Coulton case

Police hunting the killer of Pat Coulton, whose husband Michael is a member of the Royal Protection and Diplomatic Squad, are receiving help from the FBI. Two members of Thames Valley Police have travelled to California and Florida where they are looking for potential witnesses. Mrs Coulton, 52, died after being stabbed 20 times. Her body was found in January in the grounds of the nursing home in Sunningdale, Berkshire, where she worked. Her husband was suspended after the discovery of firearms at the couple's home in Woking, Surrey.

Yates not to be charged

Paula Yates, former wife of Bob Geldof, and Michael Hutchence, singer with the rock group INXS, will not face charges over an alleged drugs find at their home, Scotland Yard said last night. The couple were in Australia when their home in Chelsea was raided last September. Scotland Yard said: "Police investigating an allegation of possession of drugs against a 36-year-old man and woman have been advised by the Crown Prosecution Service that there is insufficient evidence to offer a realistic prospect of conviction. Police will be taking no further action."

Rape case 'contempt'

An Old Bailey judge referred the *Daily Mail* to the Attorney-General for contempt yesterday after the newspaper challenged his right to restrict publication of material relating to future trials. The *Recorder of London*, Sir Lawrence Verney, had banned the reporting of some material from the case of an Austrian tourist who was raped by eight teenagers for fear of jeopardising pending trials. The newspaper said the judge had no such authority and that only the High Court could impose such restrictions — a view the Crown dismissed as "judicious contempt".

Girl, 15, killed by car

A teenage girl was killed and another had her legs broken when they were hit by a car that mounted the pavement as they walked together. Sarah Gaffney, 15, from Westerhope, Newcastle, died in hospital shortly after the accident. Emma Daggart, 16, had been walking with her William Baxter, 45, from Newcastle, a passenger in the car, was in intensive care with a fractured skull after being trapped for 15 minutes in the car, which hit a lampost. He was cut free by firemen. The driver of the car, which was carrying five people, was arrested.

BBC revisits Wessex

The BBC has commissioned a screenplay of the Thomas Hardy classic *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* as a four-part drama expected to be shown on Sunday evenings. Alan Sharp, a screen playwright, is to adapt the classic tale of doomed love. Mr Sharp was commissioned by the BBC after his work on the film *Rob Roy*. It would be the second Hardy novel dramatised by the BBC. It broadcast *The Mayor of Casterbridge* in the 1970s. The 240-minute project could cost up to £4.5 million, with funding coming from the BBC's 1996-97 drama budget of £184 million.

Asylum plea allowed

A High Court judge ordered that a Russian homosexual be allowed to appeal against Britain's refusal to give him asylum. The 26-year-old man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said that he faced persecution from gangs of youths who harassed and killed gays, and from psychiatric hospitals. The Home Office originally ruled that he did not have "a well-founded fear" of persecution because homosexuality had been decriminalised in Russia. The decision was upheld by a special adjudicator, but the judge said that the adjudicator might not have considered all the evidence.

1,600 protest calls

More than 1,600 of the record 7,179 complaints about noise and other environmental nuisances at Manchester Airport last year were made by one person. The anonymous man, who lives at Cheadle Hulme under the airport's flightpath, telephoned the airport up to five times a day to protest about noise. His 1,640 calls represented 23 per cent of last year's total. "I suppose he has us on a redial button by now," an airport spokeswoman said, adding that, thankfully, he did not reverse the charges. In all, ten people were responsible for 48 per cent of all complaints.

Hat-trick appeal rejected

Phil Hutchings, 65, a village cricketer in Abbotsbury, Dorset, claimed a unique hat-trick after taking two wickets with his final deliveries last season against the Hampshire side, Burley. The third wicket fell with his first ball of the new season last weekend, coincidentally also against Burley. But his appeal was turned down yesterday by *Wisden*, the cricketers' bible. Chris Lane, the managing director, said: "It is a commendable effort but I am afraid he cannot claim a hat-trick. It has to be three wickets in three consecutive balls in the same match."

New peers

Continued from page 1
new peers may be attacked by Labour as an attempt by Mr Major to bolster Tory ranks in the House of Lords while he is still Prime Minister. Labour has long complained that the Tories have unfairly increased their underlying majority in the Lords through the creation of new peers.

On the opposition view, Labour needs at least three dozen new peers over and above any new Tory creations to restore the balance before the 1997 election. A second list would include peerages and other lesser awards for ministers and former MPs defeated on May 1. This is when Mr Major would reward his personal and political staff.

Downloading from the Internet without ISDN?

Here's something to pass the time.



Fig. 11. The water-lily fold for table napkins.

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James McArdle was flown from Ulster to London yesterday for questioning about the Docklands bombing

subsidiary of Lockheed Martin was condemned by some as unChristian. The Dean, Dr John Moses, said: "This is something we must look at when we meet as a Chapter. The Church of England has an ethical investment policy which includes not investing in armaments, and some would therefore say that sponsorship was not to be taken from arms manufacturers."

Dr Moses added: "We live in a wicked world. There are times when it is right for a nation to go to war. Therefore arms manufacturing follows. I believe the nation has the right to defend itself against attack." He said he was not able to take an "aloof, superior moral pos-

ition" against armaments, while demanding at the same time to be defended.

Canon John Halliburn, chairman of the committee which accepted the offer of sponsorship, told today's *Church Times* that he had been surprised at the outcry. "I thought Lockheed made engines for aeroplanes," he said. The British division of Lockheed Martin involved is the Portsmouth-based Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems.

Earlier this week, the Campaign Against the Arms Trade said: "It seems to us that the church has rewritten the Sixth Commandment to 'Thou shall not kill' — unless we get a whacking great profit."

EJW 11/15/97

Attackers tailed Michael Green and his wife as they drove home in their Rolls-Royce

Film clue to knife gang that mugged Carlton TV chief

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DETECTIVES hunting a gang who attacked Michael Green, the chairman of Carlton Communications, and his wife with a knife released closed-circuit film yesterday showing the thieves tailing the millionaire's Rolls-Royce in a BMW.

The three black men in their 20s, all wearing hoods, were captured on security film as their car pulled up around the corner from the Greens' Mayfair home. They attacked Mr Green, slashing him across the head and face with a 12in knife before throwing him to the ground. A £100 gold necklace was ripped from the neck of his wife, Theresa, 45,

who was left bruised and suffering from shock.

As Mr Green spent yesterday at his company headquarters in Knightsbridge, police sources disclosed that they had been hunting a loose-knit network of violent thieves targeting wealthy people living in London. Since January a special undercover unit had identified 16 attacks in central London.

The muggers are believed to watch for possible victims as they leave restaurants, hotels and shops in areas such as Park Lane, Belgravia and St John's Wood. They follow them home and then strike in car parks or on the street. Up

to a dozen muggers operating in small and interconnected gangs could be involved.

Yesterday detectives ap-

pealed for witnesses to the attack on the Greens. The film showed that Mr Green, whose fortune is estimated at £100 million, was followed home on Tuesday evening by a gang driving a dark-coloured 5-series BMW. As Mr Green turned into the Mayfair mews where he lives, the car drove past and stopped.

Two of the gang went round the corner to the mews and were joined by the third. They pulled balaclavas over their faces. In the space of little more than a minute they had attacked the couple as they parked their car in a garage near their home, and were on their way back to their getaway car. They took credit cards, £500 in cash and the car.

Mr Green, 49, was taken to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. His wife was with him yesterday. A spokeswoman said he was "absolutely fine" and reports of the attack had been exaggerated.

But Detective Inspector Steve Hagger, leading the investigation, said the attack was a "nasty and violent" incident. Police did not think Mr Green had been specifically targeted. The thieves had



The hooded muggers were caught on film as they parked their BMW around the corner from the Greens' home



Mr and Mrs Green were attacked in their garage

Demand rises for burly bodyguards and fortress flats

BY EMMA WILKINS

FEAR of violent crime is fuelling demand for bodyguards and secure new homes as the affluent seek to ensure their personal safety. A round-the-clock "personal protection officer" complete with dark glasses and menacing attitude can cost up to £2,500 a week. A review of home security, including checks on noisy neighbours and frequency of police patrols, comes rather cheaply at £25 an hour.

A security services company with offices in London, Cambridge and

Hertfordshire is experiencing a boom in inquiries. A spokesman who declined to give his name for security reasons said: "When we started 13 years ago, we had about one or two approaches for bodyguards each month. Now we are approached by twelve to fourteen each month."

"There is a lot of worry among people about personal security but not all of them can afford to do something about it. Full-time protection is an expensive business. Our women clients are usually worried about a stalker or a former

partner. Our male clients include captains of industry, people in the City of London and celebrities."

He said that clients had approached Associated Emergency Security Services fearing attacks from animal rights campaigners and Irish terrorist groups linked to their professional or business interests.

Celebrity clients include Faye Dunaway, Nicole Kidman and her husband Tom Cruise.

For those who prefer their security to be less flamboyant, a modern apartment behind

wrought-iron gates is proving a favourite option. New developments are especially popular in west London, where three are being built in Fulham alone. The Piper Building, on the site of the former British Gas headquarters, has 77 flats costing from £265,000 to £425,000.

The complex is behind security gates provided by a swipe card and has 24-hour portage. Similar developments are being built at Chelsea Village and the Riverside Belvedere complex in Pimlico.

"There is no doubt that people find advanced security very attractive," Edward Lewis of the estate agent Savills said. "The presence of a 24-hour porter is one of the reasons people opt for new developments."

"We find that people want to be able to feel safe in their own home, knowing that there is closed-circuit television in operation and the likelihood of being burgled or mugged is greatly reduced."

Rivermead Court, near the members-only Hurlingham Club in Fulham, is especially popular with

retired couples, according to Matthew Harup of the estate agent John D. Wood.

Although the flats were built in the 1930s, their appeal has increased in the past few years since a high-tech security system was introduced.

Mr Harup said: "The flats are set in their own grounds which lead down to the Thames. People can wander about at dusk in the grounds knowing that they are not going to get mugged because they are totally secure. It's a great selling point."

Sexually abused boy given asylum in Canada

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH boy aged 12 has been granted refugee status in Canada because of fears that he would be sexually abused if he returned to Britain.

The Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board held that the boy had a well-founded fear of persecution in Britain because the State did not respond to his mother's pleas for help after he was abused by his father and paternal grandparents.

Canada grants asylum only to members of "a particular social group" with a well-founded fear of persecution in their homeland. It is thought to be the first time this has included a victim of sexual abuse.

The boy was born in the United States in 1984 and moved with his parents to Britain the following year where he was sexually abused until 1991. His mother sought assistance from the British authorities to no avail.

In 1992 the boy, his mother and her new husband went to live in Minnesota, but the stepfather was deported two years later after American authorities discovered that he had a drug conviction. The family set up home in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and applied for asylum.

In its ruling, the board said it found "evidence of past sexual victimisation from his biological father in which state protection did not materialise". This amounted to "clear and convincing proof that the UK failed to extend him adequate and effective protection," it said.

Yesterday Allan Levy, QC, an expert in child abuse law, said: "It is true that there were such serious failings that the boy had to leave the country, then the relevant government department should hold an inquiry."

Last night a Foreign Office spokesman said that the British authorities would be investigating the Canadian officials' allegations that the protection offered the boy in Britain was inadequate.

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Minister tried to heal dog by prayer

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE RSPCA is investigating an attempt by a Christian organisation to heal a minister's ailing dog through the power of prayer after it had been seriously injured in a road accident.

Sheba, a rare four-month-old white dog worth £200, suffered severe leg injuries when she was hit by a car in Exeter. Her owner, the Rev Alison Brown, a minister in the River of Life evangelical movement, prayed over the dog with other members of the group as Sheba lay in the road.

The RSPCA was called by a passer-by and the inspector persuaded Mrs Brown to hand the dog into their care. Now Mrs Brown is accusing

the society of kidnapping it. The society is investigating whether she committed an offence under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act, which makes it a crime to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal by failing to provide veterinary attention.

Mrs Brown said: "I have a divine power to heal. I had the power to see inside Sheba and I could see her back legs were damaged most so we began praying over those and worked our way up. If people or animals are in pain, God will heal them."

A spokeswoman for the RSPCA denied that the dog had been kidnapped, saying that it had been given over legally into their care.

Judge takes a soft line in paper row

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE softness of lavatory paper was argued over by some of the country's finest legal brains as a High Court case between Andrex and Nouvelle began yesterday.

Anrex, the market leader, is seeking a court order banning Fort Sterling, which makes Nouvelle, from marketing its product by offering a free roll of Andrex to any customer not satisfied with the softness of Nouvelle Quilted.

Anrex claims that Nouvelle's packaging, by naming Andrex in its offer, was likely to mislead.

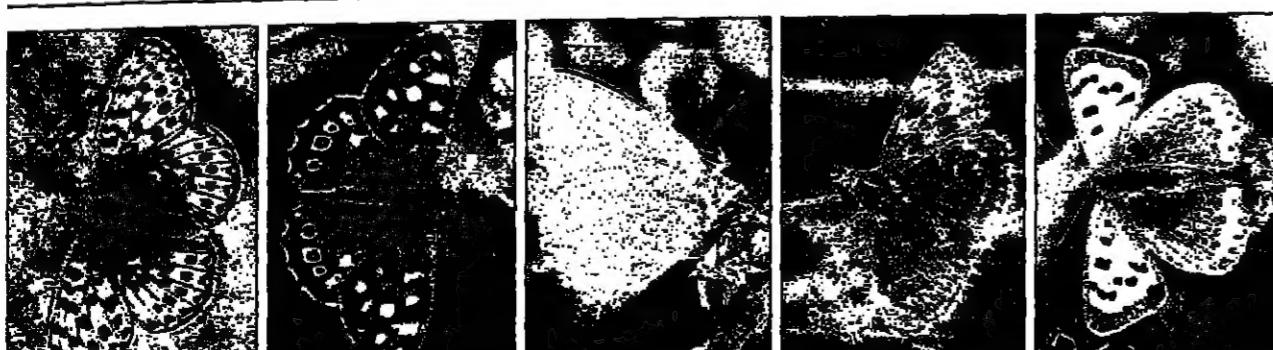
David Young, QC, presenting Andrex's petition for an injunction to prevent "passing off", said that, to qualify for the offer, customers had to fill in a coupon and provide a receipt.

Mr Justice Laddie said:

"The idea is that housewives and the 17 per cent of men who go off and do the shopping will keep their receipts. I don't know anyone who does that, except my wife."

The judge said the allegation seemed to be that Nouvelle was trying to hitch itself "subliminally" to Andrex's reputation, but he hoped the case would not "degenerate into a 'tis, 'ain't argument about whose paper is more comfortable".

After all, he said, no one was going to carry out blind testing in their homes. Nouvelle might in fact be "jolly nice". The hearing continues today.



Warm spell brings butterflies out early

BY JOHN VINCENT

THE warm weather has speeded up the development of butterflies to such an extent that many species are on the wing more than a month early, according to a report yesterday by the charity Butterfly Conservation.

Nigel Bourn, an authority, said: "It's incredibly early for butterflies. They are cold-blooded and are dependent on temperatures to develop. When it is this warm this early, they develop very quickly. It's always difficult to be absolutely sure if it's a record but they are on the wing earlier than at any time in living memory. Basically, they think it's sum-

mer." Nick Bowles, who is co-ordinating a telephone contact line, said that the long hot dry spell had led to early sightings, including a pearl-bordered fritillary on Dartmoor on April 11 (nearly five weeks early); speckled wood: Somerset, March 6 (nearly a month early); green hairstreak: Suffolk, March 27 (late April); grizzled skipper: Sussex, April 1 (early to mid-May).

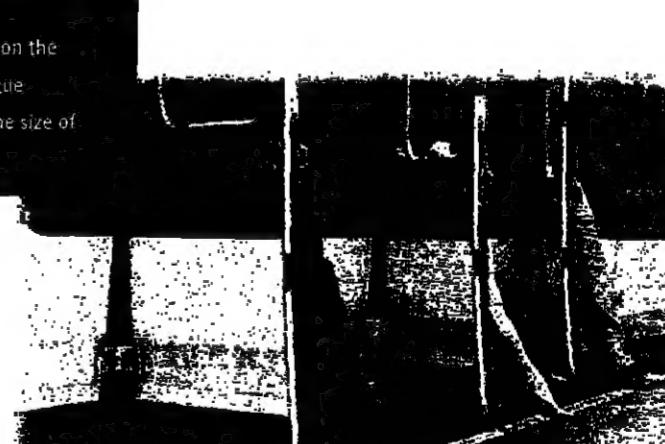
Ecologists and regional recorders from the charity have noted that it is not only one individual butterfly being sighted. They are being reported in considerable numbers. Dr Warren said butterflies were good indicators of global climate changes indicated by a recent spread northwards of species such as the gatekeeper and speckled wood and the current early appearances.

many are in danger of extinction. Prolonged drought will bring severe consequences later this summer and may lead to population crashes as it did in 1976. Already, heathland fire on Dartmoor has resulted in the loss of a high brown fritillary colony."

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Thanks to the commuter on the

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New cancer treatment shows early promise

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A NEW cancer treatment has produced encouraging results in a trial at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London. Nine patients with lymphoma that had resisted conventional treatments were given the new therapy. In four, it produced improvements, and in one the tumours disappeared.

The results are far better than we expected at such an early stage of the drug's development," David Cunningham, head of the hospital's lymphoma unit, said. The results will be a boost to "antisense" therapies, in which cancer genes are stopped from operating by binding to them lengths of genetic material that are their mirror image.

The cancer from which the patients were suffering — non-Hodgkin's lymphoma — grows because the tumour cells have lost their ability to commit suicide. The reason lies in a protein called BCL-2, which blocks the process. The therapy aims to correct this by interfering with the gene responsible for making BCL-2, and restoring the cells' ability to control themselves.

Andrew Webb, Dr Cunningham and colleagues explain in *The Lancet* that they blocked the gene by interfering with the molecules that carry the message the cell needs to make the protein.

Alzheimer's affects half older drivers killed in accidents

By IAN MURRAY

MORE than half the drivers aged over 65 who are killed in road accidents are suffering from some form of Alzheimer's disease, according to the latest research.

The study, published today in *The Lancet*, throws light on why so many crashes occur at junctions, where judgment is vital. Loss of judgment is one of the early effects on Alzheimer's sufferers, who progressively lose their memory, become confused and suffer bad co-ordination.

Doctors examined the brains of 98 drivers over the age of 65 who died in car crashes. They took samples from parts of the brain that are involved in judgment and co-ordination and scored them for the plaques, tangled nerves and other changes that are characteristics of Alzheimer's. They found that in a third of the cases there was conclusive evidence of the disease and positive indications that a further 20 per cent were becoming affected by it. The proportion of those with the disease increased with age.

There are 3.8 million licence holders aged over 65 among the 24 million in Britain. In 1995, the last year with complete records, they were involved in 22 per cent of all fatal

accidents and 13 per cent of accidents involving injuries. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, they have a higher accident rate than any age group other than the youngest drivers. Bad eyesight, stiffening joints and poor hearing have been blamed; the new report suggests Alzheimer's is a big factor.

There are 670,000 people in Britain with senile dementia of one kind or another, 500,000 of them suffering from Alzheimer's. Around 5 per cent of those over 65 are known to have the disease, but the proportion rises steeply with age and about 20 per cent of those over 80 suffer from it.

All drivers in Britain have to reapply for their licences when they are 70 and must do so every three years thereafter. Applicants are meant to say whether they have any physical problems or disease, but there is no requirement for a medical check-up. Doctors can be asked to certify that drivers are fit to drive if they have mentioned something on the form that requires testing. Insurance companies sometimes require older drivers to have a medical.

The Alzheimer's Disease Society considers these checks are sufficient. "There is a perfectly good system of safeguards in place and I think it is alarmist to say that sufferers are responsible for so many accidents," Veronica Fullard, the society's spokesman, said. "As long as people realise that they should go for regular check-ups and carers understand that a pattern of odd behaviour can be a first sign of something wrong, then this should not be a problem."

Kevin Clinton, of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, said that it was opposed to mandatory testing of old people but encouraged them to have regular check-ups. "It is just not worth going on driving if you are not physically fit to do so."

The Lancet report was by Dr Matti Viitanen, of Huddinge University Hospital, Sweden, and colleagues from Finland.

Hospital is cleared over death from starvation

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MOTHER threatened legal action against doctors yesterday after an inquiry cleared hospital staff of blame for her teenage son's death from an apparently non-fatal injury. Glenn Dinnick died of starvation ten days after doctors failed to diagnose internal injuries received when he ran into a strip of wire while playing football.

Although Glenn, 16, continued to complain of pain in his abdomen, doctors at the Dryburn Hospital in Durham thought the symptoms were probably psychosomatic and arranged for him to see a child psychiatrist. Despite his constant vomiting and extreme weight loss, they failed to realise that bruising in his abdomen had stopped his muscles performing properly. Twice he was admitted to hospital and placed on an intravenous drip but Glenn, from Stanley, Co Durham, was discharged both times.

By the time he died from heart and respiratory failure in Shadley Bridge Hospital, his weight had dropped by three stone. Yesterday, however, an internal inquiry report said that no individuals should be disciplined over his death last May, although a number of procedures should be revised. The inquiry panel concluded that the North Durham Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, and a number of



Glenn Dinnick's internal injuries went unnoticed

members of its staff had failed to deliver an acceptable standard of care to Glenn and his family.

His mother, Ann-Marie Mills, said: "I am disappointed with the report. People did fail, but it seems no one wants to take responsibility or apportion blame. There is no suggestion in the report that Glenn was let down, but I firmly believe he was very badly. I think it's fair to say

we will be taking it further if we can."

Last year Geoffrey Burt, the Durham Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death due to a proper lack of care and attacked Dryburn Hospital's handling of the case. The trust has since apologised over the teenager's death, and has accepted recommendations by the panel, including extra training for staff in treating adolescents.

Record bill for sex bias case

A council paying £200,000 compensation to a former firefighter who suffered sexual harassment was ordered yesterday to pay her legal costs, estimated at £100,000. Solicitors for Tanya Clayton, 31, said the award against Hereford and Worcester County Council made her industrial tribunal the most expensive case involving one person.

Fatal leap

A woman died after jumping from a first-floor window to escape her burning flat in Wellington, south London. A boy aged three was rescued from the same floor by firefighters wearing breathing apparatus.

Ridings head

A new head has been appointed. The Ridings school in Halifax, Anna White, 42, will take over on September 1. She has been on a six-month secondment as associate head of the school, previously named the worst in Britain.

Untimely flies

Severn Trent Water has apologised to homeowners suffering a plague of flies from a sewage works in Spondon, Derbyshire. The larvae used to break down the raw sewage are hatching because of the early spring.

Burial victory

A man has won a 14-month battle for people to be buried with their animals at his pet cemetery near St Austell, Cornwall. Terry Squires, 70, won approval from the Environment Department and has bookings from three people.

Train set on fire

Eight people were treated for smoke inhalation after arsonists set fire to a passenger train at Snowdown station, near Dover, Kent. About 50 firefighters fought the blaze on the eight-coach train for an hour on Wednesday night.

Flying squad

Police have involved schools in a campaign to try to halt the illegal killing of hen harriers by gamekeepers in Northumbria. Children are to "adopt" the eight breeding pairs, which have not raised young since 1995.

Escaper caught

A hamster is back behind bars after being on the run since August 1995. The animal, Derek, was caught when James Gordon, neighbour of owners Nesreen and Maureen Karim from Newcastle, heard him in his bedroom.

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Large catch keeps fish prices steady

BY DAREH GREGORIAN

FISH and shellfish prices have remained stable this week. Most varieties are in plentiful supply, apart from herring, which may be hard to find for a month until the start of the new season.

Advertised promotions include:

Asda: cod fillets in batter 600g for £2.85, chicken 1.5kg for £3.49.

Sainsbury's: Lee Double chocolate gâteau five portions for 99p, mushrooms 500g for 89p, braeburn apples 45p a lb.

Budgens: boneless pork leg £2.69 per kg, chicken legs £1.99 per kg, tea cakes four for 47p, eggs a dozen for 99p.

Co-op (CWS): frozen extra lean minced beef 545g for 79p, Danish butter 250g for 79p, Brazilian limes 16p each, continental salad 99p each, Walls Carte d'Or ice cream 1l for £1.99.

Harrods: grilled vegetables 100g for £2.29, pumpkin tortelloni 100g for £1.99, parmesan di melanzane £3.49 each.

Iceland: skinless boneless battered cod fillets 600g for £2.99, Lean Cuisine beef lasagne 300g for 79p, sliced turkey 454g for £1.49, Aunt Bessie's trim load-in-the-hole 240g for 79p, Birds Eye baby carrots 750g for 99p.

Kelvin Saver: Colman's English mustard 100g for 57p, Birds Eye beef stew and dumplings 280g for 97p, Allinson hi-bran medium loaf 800g for 89p, Pillsbury toaster pockets cheese & bacon pizza 300g for £1.79, Del Monte orange juice liter for 77p.

Marks & Spencer: rhubarb 500g for 99p, Italian ground coffee 227g for £1.99, Italian tomato sauce 300g for 75p, tomato and three cheese pizza 300g for £1.99, quiche lorraine 400g for £1.49.

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THE VECTRA FROM VAUXHALL

Clip Min 150

Earliest 'ape' stood up 20m years ago

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE earliest animal that looked like modern apes and human beings has been identified from fossils found in Uganda. The creature, about the size of a chimpanzee, lived in trees and walked on all fours. But it had a stiff back, a feature that is necessary for standing upright occasionally, as apes do.

A team of anthropologists from the United States and Uganda report in *Science* that the creature, called *Morotopithecus*, lived at least 20.6 million years ago, making it the oldest to have shared the characteristics of modern apes and human beings.

The first such fossils were discovered at Moroto in Uganda in the early 1960s. A team led by Dr Daniel Gebo, of Northern Illinois University, discovered more fossils there in 1994 and 1995.

They included a partial shoulder bone and parts of two leg bones that had modern features. The socket was round, allowing the animal to hang from branches. The team stops short of claiming *Morotopithecus* as the ancestor of modern apes, but rather as a sister species.

Last week two anthropologists from Southern Illinois University identified another primate as the ancestor of humans, chimps and gorillas. *Kenyapithecus*, fossils of which have been excavated from an island in Lake Victoria, lived about 15 million years ago.

QCs call for funds to give death row Briton a chance

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FOUR leading QCs appealed to the Government yesterday for legal aid funds to help Chris Maharaj, a Briton facing execution for murder in the United States.

His lawyers need an estimated £75,000 to obtain scientific evidence for his appeal hearing in June, and to bring witnesses from abroad. Without the funds, they have little hope of overturning his conviction. The QCs said that execution by electric chair would probably follow shortly afterwards.

Maharaj, 33, was a self-made millionaire who arrived in Britain in 1980. He drove a lorry for a haulage company, then decided that he could make more money by owning a vehicle. Within a few years he had built up a profitable fruit import and distribution business. By the late 1980s, Chris Foreign Foods was a multimillion-pound concern.

Shortly before his arrest he shared a five-bedroom house in two and a half acres with a swimming pool at Fort Lauderdale. Now, a prisoner on death row for nine years, he has nothing to his name except a £10 watch and a few changes of underwear. The house has been sold.

Mr David Penny-Davey said: "There is a degree of buck-passing by the Foreign Office here, which says resources are available in the States. But we know that those

resources are simply not being

made available, which at the end of the day means that a man who might be innocent is, for lack of financial resources, going to the electric chair."

Both Mr Sapsford, acting on behalf of the Bar human rights committee, and Mr Robertson, representing more than 100 MPs, succeeded last April in persuading the Florida Supreme Court to order a fresh hearing on the evidence in Maharaj's case.

The Supreme Court accepted that there had been entirely unfair and improper procedures at his trial, during which the judge was arrested on bribery charges. Evidence in support of Maharaj's innocence had not been put forward.

Mr Sapsford said yesterday that, if Maharaj were denied effective and proper legal representation at the forthcoming hearing and was executed, history would reflect that the role of the Government was, at best, wilfully complacent and, at worst, an active abdication of its responsibilities to a British national."

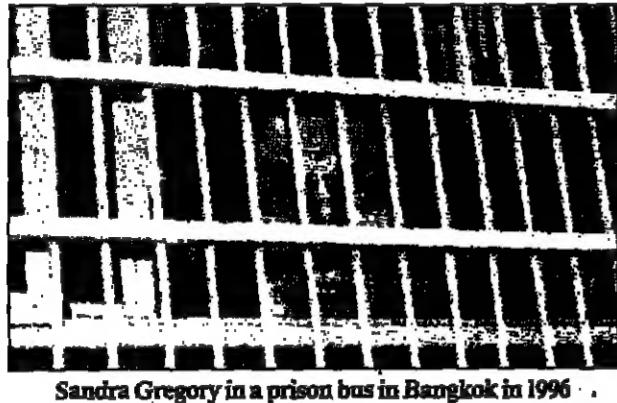
A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "We are aware that the family says they have no more funds to pay for representation. However, the UK authorities have said that Mr Maharaj will be represented." He added that there were no central government funds for the defence of British nationals overseas.



Chris Maharaj faces execution soon after a review of the evidence in his case

Bangkok heroin smuggler given transfer to Holloway

By EMMA WILKINS



Sandra Gregory in a prison bus in Bangkok in 1996

SANDRA GREGORY, the British woman serving a 25-year jail term in Bangkok for trying to smuggle heroin out of Thailand, is to serve the remainder of her sentence in Britain, it was announced yesterday.

Gregory, 31, from Sowerby Bridge, west Yorkshire, is to be transferred from Klong Prem jail to Holloway. Thai officials said she could return within a fortnight but the Foreign Office in London said that her transfer could take eight to ten weeks because of administrative procedures.

Gregory, who was arrested in Febru-

ary 1993 and jailed for 25 years for heroin smuggling in February 1996, has spent the past four years sharing a cell with 100 women. Her head was shaved after repeated infestations of lice and she has complained about overcrowding and a poor diet.

Jackie Cox, a friend of Gregory who has campaigned for her transfer, said she was delighted with the news, and that Gregory would be so excited that she would be "floating above the air".

Gregory worked as a barmaid in Sowerby Bridge before moving to Thailand in the early 1990s to teach English. She was arrested at Bangkok airport with more than three ounces of

heroin concealed in a condom in her body. Gregory had said that she needed money for her airfare home, and claimed that another traveller, Robert Lock, had offered her £650 to smuggle the drug. Mr Lock, from Cambridge, was acquitted last year. Under British law, Gregory will be eligible for parole in six years.

Gregory qualified for repatriation in February, under a deal between Britain and Thailand. Such transfers are, however, not automatic and are subject to consideration by the Thai authorities.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London confirmed that Gregory applied on February 5 for a transfer to this country and that this was agreed last month.

Her parents, who live in Aberdeen, declined to comment yesterday.

Prisoners Abroad, the group which helps to safeguard the humanitarian rights of Britons in foreign jails, said that it was very pleased for Gregory. She would either be handed over into the care of the British Embassy in Bangkok or be escorted on a flight to London by Thai police and handed over to British prison officers at Heathrow, a spokesman said.

Gregory will be transferred with three other British nationals, whose names were not disclosed.

Novelist sketched the Saint for supper

By JOHN VINCENT

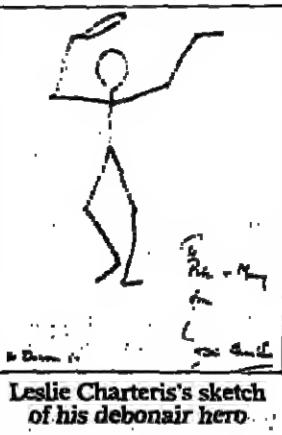
A DRAWING by the novelist Leslie Charteris of his most famous character was unveiled today as the film version of *The Saint* went on general release. Charteris dashed off the sketch of Simon Templar on the back of a dinner menu in 1961.

Now the drawing of the debonair criminal hero removing his halo has emerged on the auction market, with two drawings done at the same time by Jean Cocteau, the French poet, writer and cinema director, who was dining with him. The three hastily drawn sketches, all in felt-tip pen, are expected to fetch about £300 at a Bonhams books and manuscripts sale in London on April 29.

The story of the drawings dates back to October 31, 1961, when Peter Noble, then editor of *Screen International*, and his wife, Mary, were entertaining Charteris and Cocteau at a restaurant during the Cannes Film Festival. As an impromptu contest of skill, both men drew their versions of the Saint on the back of their menus. They then gave them to Mr Noble, who said yesterday: "They are reminders of wonderful times in the film industry."

Charteris, born in Singapore in 1907, created Simon Templar in *Enter the Saint*, in 1930. He went on to become an American citizen in 1941. Cocteau (1889-1963) directed a string of films from the 1930s to the 1960s, including *La Belle et la Bête* (1949) and *Orphée* (1949).

The Saint was played in television by Roger Moore from 1963 to 1968.



Leslie Charteris's sketch of his debonair hero

Vegetarian chef wins right to avoid meat

By RICHARD DUCE

A VEGETARIAN chef has won his case that his sole money should not be stopped because he refused to cook meat. Simon Beavis, 25, a vegetarian since the age of 12, argued that his rights had been infringed when officials at his jobcentre ruled that he was restricting his chances of employment.

An independent appeal tribunal in Truro has ordered that Mr Beavis, from Penzance, be paid two weeks of jobseeker's allowance and housing benefits of £75.

His victory puts vegetarians on a par with Jewish and Muslim chefs who can refuse to handle pork under a "conscientious objection" clause contained in applications for jobseeker's allowance.

Mr Beavis, who trained at restaurants in London, said he decided to voice his objections to cooking meat and fish when he had to boil live lobsters while working at a seafood restaurant in Penzance last summer.

He told the tribunal: "It was

not the noise, because I know that is caused by the shell contracting. It is the look in their eyes as they go into the water. It was a pleading look as if they were asking me not to put them in the pot."

Yesterday he said that he was delighted with the ruling: "This is a great victory for vegetarians. Hopefully now no one will be forced into jobs to which they really feel morally and ethically opposed."

It is like being a conscientious objector and now they can't penalise you for that as long as you can prove you are actively seeking different sorts of work. It shows that it is always worth taking things to appeal and not giving up the fight."

Chris Dessant, of the Vegetarian Society, said: "The clear implication is that it is wrong for the Government to force somebody to work against their ethics."

A spokeswoman for the Department of Education and Employment said that she could not comment on any individual case. "It is entirely a matter for the tribunal,"

which is based on its knowledge of employment issues in the area. Generally, if anyone has a seriously held belief, they can restrict the nature of their work. It is for the local jobcentre staff to determine if there is a reasonable chance of them finding work."

Mr Beavis, a single parent

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BMA chief derides 'pathetic' pledge of £100m for NHS

By JILL SHERMAN AND JAMES LANDALE

LABOUR'S plans to spend £100 million on reducing NHS waiting lists were yesterday dismissed as "frankly pathetic" by the chairman of the British Medical Association. Sandy Macara accused all parties of failing to address chronic underfunding in the health service.

Mr Blair argued that the Tories would destroy the NHS through creeping privatisation, longer waiting lists and increased bureaucracy. At a rally in Edinburgh last night, the Labour leader said that a fifth term of office would give the party a "licence to kill" the health service. He added that the Government's reforms were strangling the NHS and insisted that the service would be safe only in Labour's hands.

But Dr Macara said that Labour offered no better solution than the Tories. Asked

THE LABOUR CAMPAIGN

about Mr Blair's £100 million pledge, Dr Macara said: "It's frankly pathetic — but no more pathetic than the others. There is just a total failure by any of the parties to recognise that we need to face the fact that the NHS has always been and remains chronically underfunded."

Interviewed on Radio 4's *World at One*, Dr Macara said he was impressed that Labour was looking at ways of saving money by changing the system, but pointed out that the Tories had a head start. He also emphasised that savings will save significant funds.

The BMA, which represents 113,500 doctors, has rarely criticised Labour in the past 15

years. At the last two elections, Labour said it would make up underfunding in the NHS. In 1992 it promised an extra £1 billion in the first 22 months of government, and to restore free dental and eye checks.

This year Labour has pledged no more money than the Tories, other than switching £100 million from bureaucracy to frontline care. Some £40 million has already been pledged for cancer services.

Dr Macara, BMA chairman for the last four years, said that doctors would step up their demands for extra funds if Labour was elected. But his comments contrasted sharply with those of John Marks, a former BMA chairman, who was on the platform at Labour's press conference yesterday morning.

Dr Marks, chairman between 1984 and 1990, insisted that if the Tories were re-elected the NHS would be destroyed. "We no longer have a truly national health service — we have 400 localised squabbling services in which patients lie on trolleys because there are no beds."

Mr Blair told the rally: "If the Tories get back for a fifth term, they will believe they have a licence to do whatever they want." He told the Tories: "Stop pretending you believe in the NHS when everything you do is undermining the NHS. Stop saying you value the NHS when you are cutting the number of nurses left, right and centre, and bringing in managers to replace them. Stop saying the NHS is safe in your hands when your reforms are slowly strangling it to death."

Tessa Jowell, Shadow Health Minister, announced that Labour would spend £10 million on top of an existing allocation of £30 million to help with diagnosing and treating breast cancer. Labour would create a nationwide network of one-stop teams for breast cancer diagnosis, so that all tests could be done on the same day.

Jennifer's family reject 'ear' replay

THE family of the girl used as the basis for the 1992 Labour election broadcast that provoked "The Battle of Jennifer's Ear" has rejected a suggestion by Conservatives to let the case be used again.

It was suggested that the girl's experience might be used to show how Labour "scaremongered" over hospital waiting-lists. Her grandfather, Peter Lee Roberts, prominent in the Conservative Party in Kent, made clear the family wanted to protect Jennifer, who is now ten. The family blame the political fracas for the break-up of the girl's parents.

During the 1992 campaign, Jennifer's father, John Bennett, contacted the Labour Party to tell of the Labour Party to tell of the

how his daughter had waited for more than a year for a routine operation for glue ear at her local hospital. The grandfather realised that the broadcast referred to Jennifer's case and approached Conservative Central Office to contest Labour's story.

Jennifer's mother Margaret, a Conservative supporter, argued with her partner over the broadcast and dismissed Labour's claims as lies. The fracas was in the news for days.

One Conservative in Faversham said: "There was mention of looking at Jennifer's case to show up the lies that were told about waiting-lists in this area but we realised the upset this would cause and scrapped the idea."

Dishonesty is not the cure for ailing system

LABOUR'S campaign on the health service is disreputable and dishonest. It grossly exaggerates both the alleged "threat" to the NHS and the scope for improvements under any Labour Government.

This will probably not matter electorally since health is one of the party's strongest issues with voters. But party leaders should not be allowed to get away with the negative tactics and "old" Labour sloganising that they have so eagerly condemned this week.

"The 14 days to save the NHS" charge is vacuous. It is nonsense to suggest, as John Prescott has, that the NHS would be "destroyed" if the Tories were re-elected. Of course, there is plenty of argument about the adequacy of funding and the operation of the internal market and GP

fundholding. But it is irresponsible scaremongering to allege, as Mr Prescott did, that "you won't get treated unless you can pay for it". There is no suggestion that the Tories will introduce charges for visits to doctors or going to hospital, nor will it run down NHS services to encourage people into the private sector, as has occurred with dentistry.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, developed a more subtle line of criticism. He talked of a shift to privatisation by allowing family doctors to be employed by commercial organisations and clinical services to be provided by the private sector. There is room for argument about whether this would provide care more efficiently, or would affect relationships between patients and doctors, but the use of the term "privatisation" is misleading since such changes would not undermine the basic principle of a "free at the point of use" service.

The much trumpeted special election pledge in Labour's manifesto to release £100 million from administration to cut hospital waiting lists by 100,000 is a trivial gimmick in the context of a NHS budget which is due to rise by £1.19 billion this year to more than £34 billion. As Dr Sandy Macara of the BMA commented, the pledge is "frankly pathetic".

Whatever criticisms may be made of the Tory health changes, spending has risen substantially every year. Apart from its £100 million pledge, Labour has not promised to spend any more than the Tories.

The Liberal Democrats have been candid enough to admit the funding dilemma and propose earmarked revenue for the NHS. But Labour's reluctance to consider increases in taxation (other than the windfall levy on the utilities) and coolness to many efficiency initiatives undermine the party's pledge to deliver a better NHS.

The Tories have only managed to raise spending every year by taking measures to save money on other programmes which Labour has opposed. Labour's current health policy is mainly vague aspiration and gesture politics.

John Burnett, Liberal Democrat candidate for Torridge and West Devon, is (contrary to a report, April 16) a farmer and cattle breeder.

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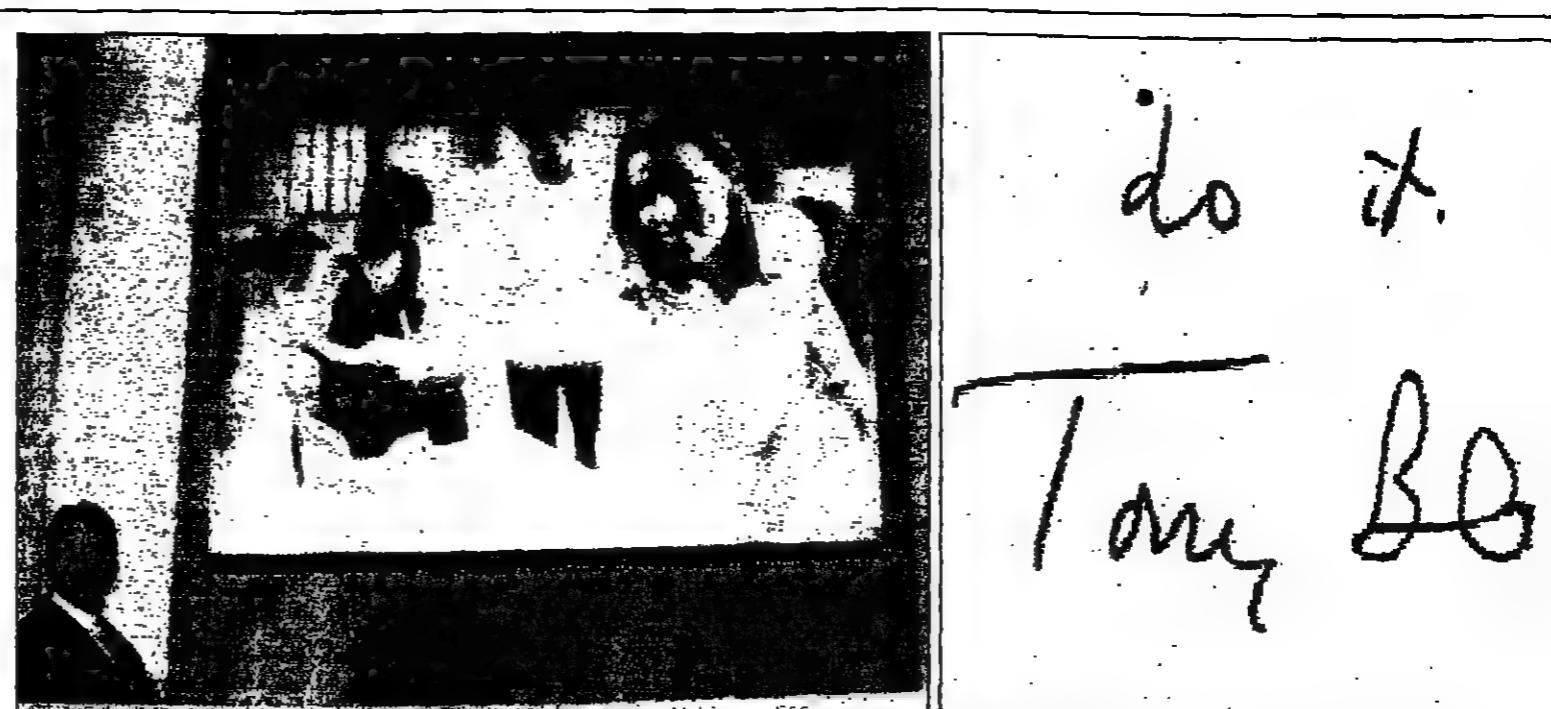
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The Labour Party's latest campaign video, aimed at attracting first-time voters, signs off with a message from the leader, Tony Blair

Blair puts his shirt on winning youth vote

Ben Macintyre thinks the young will like the language of Labour's video: there is none

THE Labour Party has produced a campaign video designed to lure first-time voters with a simple but powerful message: vote new Labour and total strangers will shower you with love in the streets of Islington.

The three-minute video, premiered at Labour's Millbank Tower headquarters yesterday, begins by zooming in on a doormat on which lies a copy of *The Sun* announcing the arrival of election day. No, insisted Mo Mowlam, Labour's spokeswoman on youth, the choice was in no way connected with *The Sun's* endorsement of Tony Blair.

To the soundtrack of D'Ream's *Things Can Only Get Better*, a handsome young man wearing the casual uniform of new Labour —

open-necked light blue shirt with button-down collar, belted cream slacks — reads his paper, eats his toast, picks up his polling card and heads off to do his democratic duty.

As he walks along, the card flies out of his hand into the road. He dashes to retrieve it and is almost flattened by a elderly motorist. Instead of accelerating over him in a fit of road rage, the old chap's face lights up when he sees who is going to vote. He beams and raises his thumb.

The same ecstatic reaction greets our hero on the high street: a pretty girl spontaneously buys him a bunch of red roses; a yoof getting his hair dyed pink leaps from the barber's chair to wave and cheer; clean and trendy young people outside a cafe

swoon and applaud as he passes. For it transpires that there are two identically clad blue-shirted fellows walking side by side. There is the one with the poor road sense, and there is the other one, whose face is not revealed as he marches polward.

Who is this mystery man, who has such a galvanic effect on the granny in the polling station? Why does the Conservative candidate (suited, be-spectacled, square) look so dejected as the man sweeps in, now trailed by a bevy of bimbos and a lot of balloons?

Suddenly, and not entirely pleasantly, we get a close-up shot into his ear and of a lock of hair. What began as a Gap commercial has become A Question of Sport. I reckon it's Glenn Hoddle, David. Then we get a single

pale eye, with a strangely dilated pupil. Can it be Will Self?

But no. The camera pans upwards to reveal that the novice voter's doppelgänger, the man adored by punks and pensioners alike. It is Tony Blair himself. He grins wordlessly. "Do it" is scrawled across the screen, followed by the Labour leader's signature.

Dr Mowlam said that "tens of thousands" of the video would be sent to all Labour candidates for showing in youth clubs and schools.

Labour's visual pitch comes in a language the video generation can understand: there is no language. But there is a subliminal sartorial slogan: under new Labour, smart shirts will be for the many, not the few.

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There's a great deal going on



Crispin Blunt, who has said that a Tory "donkey" could win in Reigate

Gardiner promises to make a donkey out of his Tory rival

Michael Evans meets a rejected former MP who refuses to let go

SIR GEORGE GARDINER, deselected Tory and second biggest star of the Referendum Party, is convinced that he has his Conservative rival on the run and is fully expecting to get his revenge on the "toffee-nosed tendency" in the Reigate constituency.

Crispin Blunt, a former soldier (13th/18th Royal Hussars) and special adviser to Malcolm Rifkind, rashly joked at his selection meeting that a donkey could stand as Conservative in Reigate and still win. Animals are one of Sir George's strong points. His campaign leaflet depicts him being lavishly licked by a bulldog, just to underline his self-image as a man who will fight for the interests of his country rather than those of a European superstate.

"I won't let Crispin Blunt forget his donkey remark. He may have been joking but he has made an ass of himself

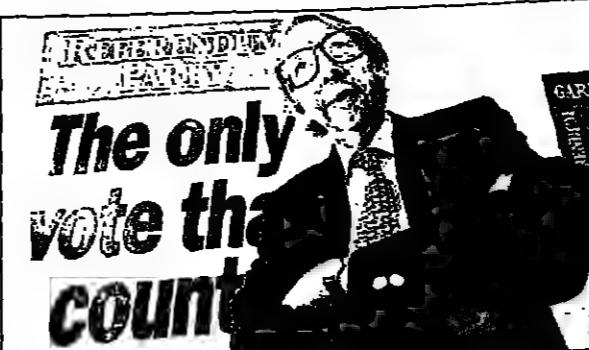
and I think I've got him on the run." Sir George said yesterday over a pint in a pub near his headquarters in Reigate's main street.

After 23 years as Tory MP for Reigate, Sir George was deselected over his perceived disloyalty to John Major. He had demanded that the Prime Minister "get off the fence" and declare his opposition to a single currency.

"There is a faction in the Conservative constituency association I call the toffed-nosed tendency. They can't stand to have an MP with a mind of his own," he said.

Now, as the Reigate candidate for Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, he predicts that his vindication is just two weeks away. He said: "I have people working for Crispin Blunt who will vote for me. It's like having fifth column in my rival's office."

Mr Blunt, 36, a former



Gardiner: mocks the "toffee-nosed tendency"

captain who won the Queen's Medal at Sandhurst, the prize for the best regular officer, is not complacent about his anticipated victory, despite his "donkey" comment (which he regrets). At the Tory constituency office in Redhill, he said: "George had a lot of people who were loyal to him but he committed political suicide."

Mr Blunt insisted that his views on Europe were not so far adrift from those held by the man he replaced. He said he could not envisage the

present Cabinet making a collective decision to recommend Britain joining the single currency in the near future, "so it won't happen".

It was right, however, for Mr Major to stick to the wait-and-see policy as a negotiating tactic. "When I explain that to the people on the doorstep they understand," he said.

Sir George accused him of trying to sound Euro-sceptic. "We're miles apart on Europe," he said. Sir George and Mr Blunt had their best

chance to persuade the younger generation of their differing views on Europe when they attended a debate at the local comprehensive school yesterday with four other candidates.

Sir George said he had joined the Referendum Party because he wanted to stop Britain becoming part of a federal Europe. "But I'm still a Tory at heart, as I always have been."

He remains a member of the local Tory constituency party. If he beats Mr Blunt on May 1 and is elected an MP for Reigate for the Referendum Party, he foresees a time when he could re-apply for the Tory whip. "I resigned the Tory whip. I didn't lose it," he said.

Sir George sees Tory seats falling like ninepins on May 1 and predicted a Labour majority of at least 50.

Mr Blunt is afraid that a Labour government would do enormous damage to the Armed Forces which would have to be repaired "all over again" by a future Conservative government.

Welsh veteran raises hope of gain in seats

PLAID CYMRU

IT IS 17 years since Gwynfor Evans threatened to starve himself to death for a Welsh language television channel (Valerie Elliott writes). It was a deliberate ploy to raise the morale of his party after the referendum defeat on devolution.

Today the former Plaid Cymru MP and Grand Old Gentleman of Welsh nationalism has new frontiers to conquer. Mr Evans will be 85 this year, but his vision for a separate Welsh nation remains as clear as ever.

His immediate hope is for Plaid Cymru to add to its four MPs and become the second largest party in Wales.

This election, however, is particularly nostalgic for Mr Evans. His former Carmar-

then seat has disappeared and Carmarthen Town Hall, scene of historic knife-edge election counts, will no longer feature in election-night broadcasts.

However poignant the change, Mr Evans says it is better for Plaid. Carmarthen had a solid Labour vote.

This time the action has shifted to Carmarthen East and Dinefwr where Rhodri Glyn Thomas for Plaid will attempt to topple Labour's Dr Alan Williams. The other seat, Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire, will be a fight again between Plaid's Roy Llewellyn and the former Labour MP Nick Ainger. Mr Evans is convinced Plaid can win the seats if the Liberals and Tories vote tactically.

He was scathing about Labour's assembly plan for Wales and indignant that Wales should be treated so differently from Scotland. The assembly proposed by Labour would have no legislative or tax-raising powers.

An immediate target, however, is to make Welsh the official language. It was given parity with English in the Welsh Language Act 1967. The cause of Welsh has a new ally — digital television. "It will have so many advantages. Welsh-speaking people in England will be able to see Welsh programmes. Welsh television will be shown on the continent ..." Perhaps a Welsh voice in Europe is not far off.



Gwynfor Evans: still campaigning at 84

THE MANIFESTO

PLAID CYMRU has produced the most radical manifesto of any substantial party, pledging a 2p rise in income tax to create 100,000 jobs in Wales. Plaid wants a "Powerhouse Parliament" for Wales with law-making and tax-raising powers. Self-government would be achieved in five years, then independent Wales would decide by referendum whether the Queen or the Prince of Wales should remain head of state. The social programme would cost £500 million and



would cost an average household in Wales an extra £275 a year. The linking of pensions to earnings, an increase from £62 to £83 a week, would be funded by abolishing the nuclear deterrent. The party would raise £160 million from a new standard rate of 25p, £180 million from a new top rate of 50p, £90 million from ending the upper limit on National Insurance contributions, £60 million from a windfall tax on utilities and £90 million from other tax adjustments.

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J. M. 150

Loan from Dole pays \$300,000 Gingrich fine

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE stunned Washington yesterday by lending Newt Gingrich the money he needed to pay a congressional ethics fine of \$300,000 (£185,000).

Mr Dole, last year's Republican presidential candidate, said that he would bail the House Speaker out of his financial jam because "I consider this not only an opportunity to support a friend, but a long-term investment in the future of our party". The loan enraged some Democrats.

Under the agreement between Mr Dole and Mr Gingrich, the interest rate will be 10 per cent a year, simple interest, and no payments are due for eight years, by which time Mr Gingrich will be out of Congress under a self-imposed deadline and presumably earning a hefty salary in the private sector.

If Mr Gingrich pays nothing until the due date, 2005, the total repayment would be about \$640,000, his lawyer said. Mr Gingrich had explored other ways to pay using campaign coffers or by forming a legal defence fund. Republicans warned him he would face a revolt and lose his grip on the Speakership if he did not pay out of his own pocket. The Speaker told the



Gingrich: wife not keen to use family money

This Government will stay where the people and history have put us'

Netanyahu defies call to quit after police indictment

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S beleaguered Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, last night launched a spirited fightback against attempts to force him out of office after police recommendations that he be charged with fraud and breach of public trust.

As senior law officers met at a secret location to make a decision, due next week, about whether to press charges against Mr Netanyahu and three political allies, Israel's youngest Prime Minister said he was determined to resist attempts to remove him.

In political drama as fraught as any seen in Israel's 49-year history, Mr Netanyahu was addressing cheering right-wing supporters hours after an emergency meeting of the main opposition Labour Party called for his "immediate resignation", claiming that he no longer had any "moral basis" for remaining in power.

Moshe Shahal, former Labour's Internal Security Minister, at the heated meeting in Tel Aviv: "There are many similarities between this affair and that of President Richard Nixon. The Prime Minister cannot avoid the implications of the police recommendations. He must resign from office."

In his first public comments

Chair Herzog, the Belfast-born President of Israel for a decade until 1993, died yesterday, aged 78, after a long illness. He fought for the Jewish state on the battlefield, chronicled its history and championed its cause at the United Nations. A state funeral is to be held. (Reuters)

Obituary, page 23

on what Israeli papers described as the "political bombshell" delivered in the 995-page police report, Mr Netanyahu told members of his ruling Likud Party: "This Government is not going anywhere. We are staying where the people and history have put us."

As his supporters used his

Roni Bar-On resigned after only hours in office

nickname, chanting "Bibi, King of Israel" and giving him a standing ovation, Mr Netanyahu told them: "I have come to tell you today that we will continue to lead the state of Israel. We will continue on this path until the year 2000 and, I tell you, beyond the year 2000." He added: "I am convinced that the truth will triumph."

The scandal, which has completely overshadowed new attempts by Dennis Ross, the American special envoy, to revive the collapsing Middle East peace process, arose over the short-lived appointment of Roni Bar-On, a little-known, Likud-supporting lawyer, as Attorney-General.

Ayal Hasson, Israel Television's crime reporter, alleged in January that the appointment, which lasted only 12 hours, was part of a political conspiracy in which Ariveh Deri, the Orthodox religious leader, offered Cabot support for Israel's troop pullout from 80 per cent of Hebron. She reported that his price was a corrupt pledge that Mr Bar-On would withdraw charges in a separate corruption case. Mr Deri was facing which threatens his political career:

Earlier Danny Naveh, the Cabinet Secretary, said that he did not believe that the state prosecutor would implement the police recommendation



Mr Netanyahu controls his anger as he addresses Likud Party members in Tel Aviv last night. "We will continue to lead Israel until and beyond the year 2000," he said

that Mr Netanyahu be charged. He admitted that, if charges were pressed, they could result in Mr Netanyahu's "dismissal", but claimed that the police recommendation was not well enough founded.

Mr Naveh said in his hard-hitting appeal to the public: "And I want to ask, do you present an indictment against the Prime Minister of Israel, something that could in effect bring about the dismissal of

the Prime Minister, pervert the wishes of the voters of only a year ago, change the course of history of the state of Israel on a basis like this? My answer to this question is negative."

Analysts said that the unexpected news of the police recommendation had dealt a crippling, but not necessarily fatal, blow to Mr Netanyahu's premiership. Yehoshua Matza, a Cabinet minister close to him, admitted that, if

the prosecutor did press charges, "perhaps it will be go back to elections."

Under Israel's new electoral law, there is no explicit requirement that the Prime Minister step down, if he is indicted or even convicted. But political observers believe that, if that happens, vital smaller parties backing his coalition would withdraw their support.

Leading article, page 21

Scandal casts shadow across path of confident leader

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ANALYSIS

ON THE EVE of its fiftieth anniversary, Israel was yesterday plunged into an unprecedented political and constitutional crisis that, whatever its outcome, could seriously destabilise Binyamin Netanyahu, the first directly elected Prime Minister.

While his shell-shocked aides struggled to overcome the worst political corruption scandal to beset an Israeli leader, there was a growing realisation that his ten-month-old administration is likely to emerge a shadow of its previous confident self. "While opposition calls for Binyamin

Netanyahu to step down immediately are premature, the police recommendation that he be indicted on charges of fraud and breach of trust is likely to deal a fatal blow to Netanyahu's chances of serving out his four-year term as Prime Minister," claimed the right-wing *Jerusalem Post*, until last year a paper edited by one of his senior policy advisers, David Bar-Ilan.

Mr Netanyahu's spin doctors, having held a late-night council of war, decided that attack was the best

form of defence. Publicly, calls for resignation, new elections or even a three-month period of "leave" were dismissed out of hand. But few Israelis were convinced that his right-wing coalition with a majority of 66 in the 120-seat Knesset could escape unscathed.

Hemi Shalev, the *Maariv* columnist, wrote: "From a political aspect, time will stand still until it is clear whether there is still a Government in Israel or if the police recommendation, with or without prosecution, is discovered to be a shot which has turned Netanyahu and his ministers into lame ducks who do not recover

from their wounds." Aside from the knee-jerk reactions from a left-wing Opposition that is still smarting from its narrow defeat by 30,000 votes at last May's election, there were wiser counsels arguing that bringing forward elections from 2000 might be one way of healing political wounds that are so deep that no other immediate cure is available.

Although Mr Netanyahu is a political bruiser who is capable of holding his corner, his problem — whatever the final decision reached by Elyakim Rubinstein, the Attorney-General, and Edna Arbel, state attorney — is that no other Prime

Minister in the state's 49-year history has had to face such damaging accusations from his own police force. "Because a professional investigating team reached this recommendation [that he be criminally charged], the Prime Minister will not be able to clear himself other than in a trial or a trial of the people," argued Yaakov Erez, a journalist.

"Even then we must remember that, as long as he was not proven guilty, Binyamin Netanyahu is innocent. In the final court, Israeli citizens will have to determine. And determinations in a democratic society are made with elections."

the prosecutor did press charges, "perhaps it will be go back to elections."

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Leading article, page 21

MEET TONY BLAIR

ELECTION 97 READER FORUM

Next Friday is your chance to ask Tony Blair about his party's plans for government should Labour win the election. This is a unique opportunity for readers of The Times and The Sunday Times to have a say in the campaign with the man who aims to be prime minister



Tony Blair will speak for about 20 minutes before answering questions from the audience. The event, to be held in central London on Friday, April 25, will take place between 8pm and 9.30pm. Tickets, which must be booked in advance, are £10 each (£7.50 for students, pensioners and unemployed). Telephone First Call on 0171-420 0000. Lines are open 24 hours.

If you can't attend the meeting, you can still hear, see and read about the event as it happens PLUS submit your questions to Tony Blair by linking up with LineOne on the internet. Point your browser at www.LineOne.net or call the helpline, free, on 0800 111 210



Rebel port inspected by Italian soldiers

FROM TOM WALKER
IN VLORE

AN ADVANCE party of Italian combat troops inspected rebel-held Vlore yesterday, in preparation for a joint Italian-Greek operation to secure the southern Albanian port, still the hotbed of rebellion against President Berisha.

The unit, comprising many of the same soldiers that accompanied Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, to Vlore last Sunday, guarded two Italian colonels as they visited leaders of the town's self-styled rebel government, the Committee for Public Salvation.

One of the colonels said it was still uncertain when the first large detachments of Operation Alba

troops would arrive, but at least one Italian brigade and one Greek company would lead the mission.

Ezreli Osmani, the commander of the salvation committee's defence wing, said the Italians had been welcomed.

He said the sinking of the refugee ship from Vlore after it

collided with an Italian naval vessel would not be used as an excuse for guerrilla activities against Operation Alba.

A guard outside the school building occupied by the committee said, however, that he would "skin alive" any Italian soldier who tried to take his weapon. "They'd be better off sending Japanese soldiers here," he said. "The Italians have robbed us for centuries."

He said that between them,

Belgrade, Athens and Rome

formed an anti-Albanian triangle bent on profiting from the country.

Sazan Malaj, a teacher, said that with tension still high in Vlore, it was an opportune moment for Mr Berisha to orchestrate a battle

between Italian troops and local gangs. "This is his favourite method," he said.

□ **Lefkada:** Up to 40 gunmen

burst into a hospital operating room in this southern Albanian town, and started firing as they grieved over the death of a friend, who had been shot by accident. Nobody was hurt in the incident, which lasted about 30 minutes. (Reuters)

HE HAS a shock of white hair and an Australian wife, is 6ft 8in and speaks with a clipped South African tone. Yet this most un-Albanian of Albanians says that he has returned to unite them under the constitutional monarchy of King Leka Zog I.

In April, 1939, Leka Zog was just two days old when his family fled Albania and Mussolini's invasion. When he came back on Saturday, for only the second time in his 58 years, he found his country in the throes of another foreign intervention, albeit with better intentions.

"I stand for an ethnic Albania," he said in the small Tirana villa that doubles as the royalists' campaign headquarters. "As long as Albania is not united there will be big problems in the Balkans. The last thing I would like to see is a war. A Balkan war would be disastrous for the world."

He has been a strange

odyssey amid a peculiar royal family.

His father, King Zog,

was a former rural chieftain

who proclaimed himself mon-

arch in 1928, and maintained his brief rule with heavy

financial support from the nation that overthrew him.

His son has since wandered

the globe, avoiding his

father's fate.

The family fled Mussolini

to Greece, and then moved to the Ritz in London; from there they went to Egypt, and to Cannes and Paris.

He wants the June elections

monitored, but by a non-

political body such as the Red

Cross. Even if his referendum

is unsuccessful, he will return

as an Albanian citizen, bring-

ing his family — including his

wife, Susan, their son, Leka

14, and Queen Geraldine,

elderly widow of King Zog.

Leka Zog's immediate trav-

el plans include a trip to the

family homeland of Skhodra

in the north, and to rebel-held

Vlore in the south. Both

should provide clues about

whether the Zog dynasty has

any chance of resuming

power.

Ironically, his royalist

movement, which manifes-

ts itself through the small Lega-

ly Party, could be taken on

board by the opposition So-

cialists in their attempt to oust

President Berisha and his

Democratic Party in June's

general election. That would

put Leka Zog in the unique

position of being backed by

former Communists who de-

sisted his father.

Chain-smoking with dis-

dain, he expressed his opini-

ons in a brusque, military

manner. "As long as they are

here for humanitarian aid,

then they are welcome," he

said of the 6,000 international

troops being mustered in Al-

bania. "But it is up to us as

Albanians to sort our affairs

out. Their mandate had al-

ready grown to six months

from three and that gives me

cause for concern."

He wants the June elections

monitored, but by a non-

political body such as the Red

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elderly widow of King Zog.

Leka Zog's immediate trav-

el plans include a trip to the

Yeltsin and Kohl fail to end impasse over Nato

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY and Russia failed yesterday to make the decisive breakthrough needed to gain Moscow's acceptance for the eastward enlargement of Nato.

Although President Yeltsin expressed certainty that the alliance and Russia would be able to sign a security charter next month easing Moscow's concerns, it was clear that major differences still remain only five weeks before the scheduled summit in Paris.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and the Russian leader started the day-long summit in Baden-Baden in sunny mood, but by the evening it was plain that Mr Yeltsin was digging in his heels. Many of the President's comments at the final press conference seemed to be aimed at his home audience and served only to confuse the Chancellor.

On Nato, the sticking points seemed to be about how large a role Russia is to be given in alliance decision-making. President Yeltsin said that he had won the Chancellor's support for "a binding commitment to consultation and decisions on a consensus basis with all states including Russia". Herr Kohl did not comment directly but officials emphasised that Mr Yeltsin's statement should not be taken to mean that Bonn supported a Russian veto in alliance affairs.

What appears to have been agreed during lengthy talks between Javier Solana, the

Nato Secretary-General, and Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, is that a Nato-Russian consultative council will keep the Kremlin informed of alliance activities. The Germans may be ready to consider Russia's demand for a rotating chairmanship of that council, but that is as far as concessions have gone.

Herr Kohl said yesterday that the security charter with Russia was "90 per cent" complete but that intense talks were now needed on the outstanding differences. Mr Yeltsin, repeatedly described Herr Kohl as his close friend, gave a different spin to the Baden-Baden talks. He referred to the security charter as a "treaty", although there is no agreement to make the document legally binding, and said it was certain to be signed on May 27 in Paris.

President Yeltsin also claimed that Herr Kohl's support on areas which were plainly not agreed and indicated that there would be no speedy deal on the other main source of controversy, the return of art treasures taken from Germany after the war. "I am sure that such a politician as Helmut Kohl will do his utmost to secure an objective position towards Russia," said Mr Yeltsin. However, the Chancellor, without openly disagreeing, emphasised that Germany would not be thrust into the role of "interpreter" of Russian demands.

The edginess of the meeting



Helmut Kohl helps Boris Yeltsin as they leave the podium in Baden-Baden yesterday after listening to their national anthems. The two leaders discussed the expansion of Nato and the return of looted artworks

was underlined by the gifts brought by Mr Yeltsin. 11 files from the Moscow archives containing the letters of Walther Rathenau, the former German Foreign Minister. Since it was Rathenau who proposed the way for the Treaty of Rapallo between Russia and Germany in 1922, the present was double-edged. The treaty is still regarded with deep suspicion by Central Europeans who see it as the first move in a modern Russo-German

friendship aimed at carving up the Continent. Herr Kohl will be spending the next week reassuring Central European candidates for Nato that a deal will not be struck with Moscow over their heads. The German leader sees President Kwasniewski of Poland today, and President Havel of the Czech Republic will visit Germany next week.

The German chairman of the Nato military committee, General Klaus Naumann, em-

phasised in an interview in the German press yesterday that Nato had made as many concessions as it could during the long negotiations with the Kremlin, including a commitment that Nato would not station nuclear weapons in Central Europe.

General Naumann said Nato was concerned about the large numbers of tactical nuclear weapons, many of them situated near Russia's western frontiers. The failure to solve the deeply emotional issue of stolen art was probably the most galling outcome of yesterday's spa summit for the Germans. On the fringes of the summit, officials suggested that the two countries might be ready to set up a foundation that would supervise international shows of art treasures. The two leaders notably failed to mention this possibility and the argument is still simmering between the two countries.

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE French Government has launched an inquiry into the existence of a highly trained extreme-right militia thought to be 7,000-strong, which answers with unwavering loyalty to Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the National Front.

There have been complaints that the militia's uniforms so closely resemble the CRS, the official French riot police, that they have been able to pass for them.

The Department of Protection-Security (DPS), the security arm of the far-right party, is said to be equipped with teargas helmets, riot shields and truncheons and is believed to possess guns.

"The existence of a political militia laying down the law is unacceptable," said Jean-Louis Arajol, the head of the CUP-SGP police union. "In a republic there is only one police force."

Le Pen has responded angrily to the possibility that his crack troops might be disbanded. In such an eventuality, it will be up to each individual to ensure his own legitimate self-defence," he said. "The responsibility, of course, will rest exclusively with the Minister of the Interior," he added.

Concern over the existence of the militia group came to a head after protesters were stopped and searched by members posing as policemen during demonstrations against the National Front at the party's national congress in Strasbourg last month.

On October 26 last year, militia members wielding truncheons charged a crowd of protesters during a National Front rally outside the town hall of Montceau-les-Mines in eastern France. Didier Mathus, the Socialist

Deputy Mayor, angrily demanded how "a militia equipped with teargas could spread out within sight and sound of the authorities".

M Arajol, who wants M Jean-Louis Détré, the Interior Minister, to dissolve the group, believes that the militia is highly disciplined and has received advanced training. He points to videos of the battle with anti-Front demonstrators at Montceau-les-Mines. "By the way they act it is clear that they have had riot control training," he said.

Created in 1986, the group is organised with military precision by its commander, Bernard Courcelle, a former paratrooper. Nor is there any shortage of recruits for M Le Pen's elite private army. Many of its members are drawn from the former ranks of the OAS, a shadowy extreme-right paramilitary force which fought to keep Algeria French. The reality of the DPS is at odds with the image that the National Front likes to present.

M Détré is expected to announce the fate of the DPS within two weeks.

Le Pen has responded angrily to crackdown

Computer firm to fight Bavarian charges of Internet pornography

BY ROGER BOYES

A CYBERSPACE war has erupted in Germany as the result of a Bavarian decision to prosecute the head of the German division of CompuServe on pornography charges. The company yesterday contested the charges against Felix Somm, its managing director, and said it was doing all it could to prevent access to offensive material on the Internet.

The Bavarian indictment represents an important test case in the knotty question of policing the Internet; it marks the first attempts by Western authorities to prosecute a commercial online service for material it did not produce. The Munich prosecutors' office

said Herr Somm "knowingly allowed images of child pornography, violent sex and sex with animals" from news groups, from the so-called Internet to be made accessible to customers of CompuServe Germany". The prosecutors said CompuServe subscribers were also given access to computer games that contained forbidden images of Hitler and Nazi symbols such as the swastika.

The Bavarian prosecutors first raided the Munich offices of CompuServe in December 1995. CompuServe blocked access to more than 200 sex-related sites, or "news groups", to fend off accusations that it was distributing

Lawyers and politicians in many countries, including Germany, are debating laws which try to determine whether regulation should be at the point of delivery or of origin.

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Seduced by the American dream

NEW YORK

Iain R. Webb
falls for the
understated
clothes in
luxurious
fabrics on the
other side of the
Atlantic

I have always loved American fashion and, having just returned from New York Fashion Week, I am even more enamoured. For autumn/winter 1997, the American designers offered more of what they do best: pure luxury — understated looks in unashamedly expensive fabrics that somehow manage to be hedonistic and mirthirical at the same time.

puritanical at the same time.

More importantly, perhaps, the American crew presents clothes that you have always wanted but thought you would never find. It was during one of the New York shows that the woman next to me (who had sat through hundreds of collections in London, Milan and Paris) said: "After all, these are the clothes I'm going to wear." I mean, Donna Karan even called her collection Seduction.

Don Seduction.
Marc Jacobs showed tweeds which sparkled, cut into wide-leg trousers and manly coats. These were mixed with muslin camisoles or sexy wrap skirts, split high. A strapless dress comes in donkey-brown cashmere; a T-shirt is cut in fine tulle. Jacobs added trademark playful touches — an orange sleeveless hooded top with flannel trousers — and reinforced his roots in American sportswear. Just great.

can sportswear. Just great. Michael Kors took luxury to extremes: leather jackets were oversized, while skirts were chopped crotch high. Stiletto heels teetered down the same catwalk as sturdy Oxford lace-up shoes. Jumbo-leg leather trousers were shown with high-neck, all-enveloping rib sweaters or skinny stretch vests, while a T-shirt in silk jersey became a mini-dress.

jersey became a mini-dress. There was little more luxurious than the new couture collection by Richard Tyler. Under twinkling chandeliers in his Gramercy Park brownstone home, the designer showed salt-and-pepper tweed suits alongside beaded lace and chiffon, tuxedo wrap jackets and drapey sparkling dresses. However, it was his *carrousel* collection that



Left, MARC JACOBS: Sporty short cuts. Right, CALVIN KLEIN: a soft option in mandarin jersey



ALVIN KLEIN: a soft option in mandarin jersey



DONNA KARAN: Easy glamour mixes roomy cashmere with a beaded tulle top

(edging, tunic, chiffon dresses and tops) and flash (metallic leather and beaded tops) to give this essentially commercial collection an edge. Clever

his softer options that provided the fireworks: blaze-red and orange jersey dresses, "origami"-fold wrap skirts and trousers, stretch knits and matt-and-shine evening separates. Klein's clothes don't need to scream: "I'm fabulous." They

Lauren, Calvin Klein and Donna Karan have skillfully made this territory their own. Each designer has worked the masculine/feminine minimal mix into multimillion-dollar businesses, and this season each emerged triumphant.

Coats over beaded tutu tops, the softest leather cut into shell-tops and slouchy jackets, and ultra-fine cashmere sweaters falling off the shoulder. Slashed necklines looked sexier than ever with men's trousers, while her off-centre tailoring in shades of black

modern cuts: a manly double-breasted trouser suit was a foil for slash knit dresses, while a slick red trouser suit was shown alongside frayed crêpe and faded flannel. Best of all were antique-look Rug Coats (sometimes with a "reincarnated"—used before—fur collar), which were worn over figure-hugging tarnished velvet dresses. This was an extremely confident collection.

American fashion knows itself. It knows its value [millions of dollars]. So maybe the shows aren't as glitzy as in Europe but, when all is said and done, it is the clothes that matter. And what great clothes. To borrow a sentiment from Donna Karan's programme notes: the New York collections were not about

Ian R Webb is Fashion Director



From left: ISAAC MIZRAHI; manly; RICHARD TYLER; lush; RALPH LAUREN; cool

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'A damn bad business'

Jeremy Lee-Potter explains why he was driven to resign as chairman of the British Medical Association

If you went to hospital with a blood disorder and were told "Your consultant is Mr Lee-Potter", you would feel better at once. He is a doctor of the old school, tall, well-mannered, genial, reassuring. But Jeremy Lee-Potter is no longer consultant haematologist at Poole Hospital. He took early retirement from the profession in which three generations of Lee-Potters have laboured.

His three clever children have followed their mother, Lynda, the *Daily Mail* columnist, into the media: Emma is writing a novel, Charlie presents Radio 4's *PM* programme, and Adam is a reporter on *The Sun*. "I suppose they looked like me," Lee-Potter laughs, "and looked at Lynda, and thought, wed rather go that way."

The Lee-Potters live in some splendour in Dorset. Forty years ago they met as students, when he was at Guy's and she was at the Guildhall School of Drama. "She was in *Dry Rot* with Brian Rix at the Whitehall Theatre. But I blighted her acting career, as an itinerant doctor," he says.

They started in basement rooms when Jeremy was a £350-a-year houseman: "In those days you knew you would live in penury for a while, but everything would come all right in the end." Their charming Edwardian house is like a Palladian manor, with French doors giving on to a York stone terrace and six acres of garden with woodland, swimming pool and tennis court. It was built by a friend of Gertrude Jekyll, whose style is imprinted on the vista of lawns and yew hedges. Both daughters had their wedding receptions there.

By a crackling fire in the drawing-room — Lynda is in London, lunching (I discover later) with Esther Rantzen — we sit side by side. "I never sat opposite my patients," he tells me. Like all doctors, he is a repository of riveting facts of life and death. He gave me an enthralling discourse on blood coagulation.

Lee-Potter was chairman of the British Medical Association council from 1990, when the NHS Act became law, until driven to resign in 1993 by colleagues who called him Mr Sofie. Sir Humphry Davy Rollleston's "Medicine is a noble profession but a damn bad business" provides Lee-Potter with the title — *A Damn Bad Business* — of his new book, a sorry saga of endless confrontations over the NHS reforms allegedly dreamt up by Kenneth Clarke or a Spanish beach.

Lee-Potter was different from his combative, rub-thumping predecessor John Marks, whose aggressive poster campaign ("What do you call a man who won't listen to his doctor?" "Ken Clarke") had Lee-Potter left, gormless, nowhere. He would be a conciliator: "You can't call these

people rogues and then expect them to sit and talk to you."

He sat down with the "airily confident" Clarke (behind the cigar smoke and the bluff, classless bonhomie he detected "an intellectual snob") followed by the more cerebral, sober William Waldegrave, who declined the BMA's best offer as he was on his annual Lenten wagon. Lee-Potter took to the Whigish, well-informed Waldegrave at once when he fired the question: "Who was the last Briton to win a Nobel prize for medicine?" (Sir James Black.)

He found Waldegrave instinctively compatible, and a good listener. But despite their cordial relationship, Lee-Potter soon found Waldegrave and Virginia Bottomley as intransigent as their predecessors, with "a wanton disregard of the views and knowledge of the clinicians".

Everyone assumed Lee-Potter was a classic Tory: he looked the part, his wife wrote for a right-wing paper. He thinks he was voted to check out if he was "one of us". Newspapers said he had never voted for any other party. "In fact all I said was that I had never voted." Labour, which is a very different matter, I have never joined any party. If anything I'm a sort of liberal."

Having him in the BMA hot seat was "rather constraining" for his wife. "I'd say 'For heaven's sake don't write about Mrs Bottomley, it's difficult enough for me as it is'."

He resigned in disillusion when he was voted out. "The sensible guys were on my side, but the rabble-rousers made my life murder. I just found it banal."

If he had his time again, would he play it differently? "No. I still think I was right. But the reforms were a fair accomplishment. The Government ignored our advice and trampled on our professionalism."

Lee-Potter's family tree bristled with doctors: one great-uncle a naval surgeon; another physician to the Tsar. His grandfather, killed on his motorcycle at 38, was a popular GP in Yorkshire, who would treat the poor for free. His father became chief of RAF medical services. As a boy, Jeremy spent hours peering through a microscope at the organisms swimming around in rainwater; he was destined to devote his life to the NHS.

Today he experiences the service only when Lynda's nonagenarian aunt, who lives in the little cottage next door, is visited by the family GP. Lee-Potter himself has never needed to see his doctor and doesn't know if it is a fund-holding practice: or not; most people don't, until they need an operation. But he would never take out private medical insurance. "Bupa is really only for elective surgery, no good for any chronic condition. I don't think Margaret Thatcher ever understood that the private sector cannot be comprehensive."

"Trident costs £12 billion a year. With five or six billion, the health service would be transformed"

He commended the television fly-on-the-wall series *Surgery*, "shot in a Manchester practice full of drug addicts and forlorn, sad people, who depend on bloody good doctors working their socks off. These chaps should be getting £80,000-£100,000. Who would go into medicine if everybody went at school with gets more than you?"

With even his own alma mater, Guy's, under threat, Lee-Potter says the NHS is no longer a national service: your treatment depends on where you live. "What's happened in 18 years of Conservative rule is that because people in public service are not 'producers', they are taken for granted. The old system was hierarchical, controlled and planned — cumbersome, but still the best way to

achieve results. They have substituted a hit-or-miss market system."

"Funding," as Lee-Potter writes in medical jargon, is "the prime aetiology of the NHS's difficulties." But the NHS will always be confounded by keeping body and soul together when patient expectations are now so high. It costs £250,000 a year to maintain one baby in an intensive-care unit. Lee-Potter says simply: "Without this care they would die. The exorbitants of life do cost a lot."

"It's a popular view, the bottomless pit argument," he says. "But we spend half what the Germans, the Swiss, the French, spend. John Major said to me 'Sometimes GNP goes down. But we've never spent a high enough proportion of GNP on health. Trident costs £12 billion a year. With five or

six billion, the health service would be transformed."

He believes the doctors' ethos would be less threatened under Labour: their document *A Fresh Start for Health* was "very much in tune with what the BMA would have produced".

"You can't have a market-led NHS with every transaction costed, you can't make doctors' ration treatments, telling patients there's no money left. Take cataracts. When you're 80, you live through your eyes and ears, all you want is to be able to read and watch television. A cataract operation can transform your remaining years and it can be done in a day — why should you wait a year? People justifiably find this unacceptable."

• *A Damn Bad Business* will be published by Gollancz next Thursday, £16.99

SECTION 2
Teenage girls are rushing to publish their first novels. But can they write?
Arts 33-35

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Girls will be boys when it comes to PCs

Computer games are taking us over, says Bridget Harrison

It is said that female flatmates argue about two things — the phone bill and boyfriends. In my house this is not so. We are five girls and the only arguing we ever do is over computer games. They row about who gets to play next. I row with them about turning it off.

We used to spend delightful evenings together watching *EastEnders* and sipping wine around the kitchen table, discussing each other's career and love prospects. With the arrival of a new PC in the house, and a Sony PlayStation, those days have gone. Our house is now filled with the sound of blasting gunfire, screaming missiles and explosions. Every evening I arrive home to find a huddle of girls shrieking around the computer, frantically flicking cigarette ash into half-drunk cups of tea. They are captivated by the activities of a creature called Earthworm Jim, who charges around a gaudy world blasting at enemies. At weekends the PlayStation comes out. The girls' favourite game is Tomb Raider, in which the heroine is a busty action girl Lara Croft.

Often a flatmate will disappear on a Friday night, muttering: "I'm off to raid some tombs," and not appear again until Sunday. Why are these intelligent, active young women obsessed with sitting in front of a TV screen blasting computerised monsters?

Darren Carter, senior product manager at Sony, whose PlayStation has sold 875,000 consoles since its UK launch in September 1995, says: "Originally, mainly boys played computer games, which were taken from the arcades. Now everyone's imagination has been captured, especially by new fantasy games that require strategy as well as fire power."

They may have a point. After being addicted to one of the market's first TV games — bat and ball — when I was nine, I have moaned endlessly at the sight of my boyfriend and his mates riveted to computers.

Sony, which has now dropped the price of its PlayStation to £129.99, also targets older players, which will provide role models for younger game enthusiasts.

Says Darren Carter: "We have brought gaming out of schoolboys' bedrooms into the living room."

I only wish they hadn't invaded mine.

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Philip Howard



■ That bulldog did nobody warn Mr Mandelson?

Those who adopt the bulldog as a campaigning symbol should have a long lead, strong arms and tooth-proof trousers. Animal symbolism may be a useful identification mark for an illiterate electorate, but political animal crackers are usually a gift to the cartoonists, and end up biting the handler that feeds them. This has happened with elephants (ponderous conservative pachyderms) and donkeys (dumb and lascivious jackasses) in the States, and it has already happened in this election with the red-eyed lion, the headless chickens and now the bulldog.

The image of the British bulldog has become two-faced since Kenneth Baker's vain and mischievous Dangerous Dogs Act. It was never entirely favourable. Ancient Britain was famous for the ferocity of its dogs. Those, however, were not bulldogs but a bad-tempered cross between wolfhounds and lurchers. The bulldog was bred for bull-baiting, our bloody native version of the Roman arena. It was a bold, fierce breed, with a large bulbous head, short muzzle, strong muscular body and short, smooth hair. And once the bulldog sank its teeth into the tethered bull (with padded horns) it never let go. Its teeth locked like a bulldog clip. The earliest manual of the sport declares that "the courage of bulldogs and game-cocks seems peculiar to England". This was one sport at which we were champions. Bulldogging in the rodeo was invented by a black cowboy named Bill Pickett. Just like a bulldog, Pickett would sink his teeth into the bull's nose while wrestling it to the ground.

However, it was the music hall that turned the bulldog into a symbol of British bloody-mindedness and refusal to give in. Arthur Reece's song *Sons of the Sea*, All British Born had the chorus "Boys of the bulldog breed". This had a tremendous vogue in Victorian and Edwardian England. And it coincided with a time of naval rivalry with Kaiser's Germany, France and the United States. The tune was catchy. The sentiments were xenophobic. So it acquired the same patriotic glow as the Jingo song and Nicholas Chauvin playing for France before Napoleon. But it was unfortunate that the first politician to adopt the bulldog as his symbol was Horatio Bottomley, the sleazemonger of his day. Burnley founded and edited the populist rant-rag *John Bull*. And eventually not even his bulldog badge could save him from being locked up for seven years for fraud.

When humans compare each other to the lower animals, the comparison is seldom complimentary. Shakespeare is full of such animal imagery. Hardly a page turns in *King Lear* without a reference to disgusting animal characteristics. The dog, the horse, the cow, the sheep, the hog, the lion, the bear, the wolf, the fox, the monkey, the pole-cat, the cobra-cat, the pelican, the owl, the crow, the shough, the wren, the fly, the butterfly, the rat, the mouse, the frog, the tadpole, the wall-newt, and the worm have their sound-bites and symbolism. Especially the dog. Goneril's face is like a wolf, and she and Regan are dog-hearted. Oswald is a mongrel, son and heir to a mongrel.

Similarly in tragedy, Hecuba is a dog of the red-eyed posters of Tony Blair. Medea is a tiger. Clytemnestra is a lioness. Women were considered closer to animals than men. Philip Hope-Wallace, who started as a journalist as critic of song recitals for *The Times*, knew the dangers of animal symbolism. He went on to review opera and theatre for *Time and Tide*. Lady Rhondda (Margareta Haig Thomas) was the founder and editor of that magazine, and an early feminist. Her sub-title tried to keep the genders equally balanced. Philip wrote a notice saying that the diva had sung with the passion of a tigress robbed of her whelps. This was changed to the politically correct version, comparing her to a "tiger robbed of his whelps".

Animals and even insects are disobliging metaphors for humans. "Dear Procrustes, My very good friend Jason seems to be itching all over these days. What can be the matter with him? Medea." "M'dear, don't worry. He's probably got golden fleas. Tell him to keep away from the argonites." Mr Mandelson is going to regret that two-jowled bulldog.

Fancy dress

LUXURY catalogues for the sale of the dress collection of Diana, Princess of Wales in New York this June are soon to be made available for £1,200 each - the cost of a week's stay in the five-star Sandy Lane hotel in Barbados.

The limited edition catalogues, leather-bound and most likely printed on handmade paper, will be the most expensive ever produced by any auctioneer.

With a foreword signed by the Princess, Christie's the auctioneer has already taken orders for more than 50 catalogues for the sale of 80 dresses by the Princess on June 25. The hype surrounding the events eclipses the sale of Jackie Kennedy Onassis's estate, which caught America's imagination, and the 500-page bumper brochure for which cost only £60.

"It's like no catalogue you've ever seen before," milled a Christie's salesman, who said 250 copies of the special edition issue will be printed. "It will become a collector's item in its own right."

For those who prefer to spend £1,200 on their haute couture, Christie's is offering 5,000 hard-back catalogues at £160 each, and



"Depend upon it, Sir, when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully." (Dr. Johnson)

Big issues are personal

I agree with the Eurosceptics' arguments, but I shall stick with decent John Major

not an argument, either: would she please address the issues? She went to a meeting of pro-Smith whites to put the case for African education. When called to speak she stood up and, convinced by the justice of her case but too distressed to articulate it, burst into tears and sat down again. I realise that as a method of debate this approach has its limitations, but looking back on that era in Central Africa, and all the wasted, futile words and gestures which were to follow, my mother's contribution does not seem to have been entirely without point.

Anyway, she was right. Ian Smith was a bad man. The argument into which he

then they take it head-on, or duck. Watch them wherever an opportunity presents itself to win cheap with a cheap or hateful assertion, and note whether they avoid the temptation to make it. Consider how their case might be made in a constructive or negative way, and note which they choose. Note, above all, which of their audience's instincts they habitually reach for: do they indulge the fear and suspicion of foreigners you can find in any audience, or do they really try to rise above it? Assess their fastidiousness about evidence. Assess their fastidiousness about support: do they accept a cheer from whatever quarter, or are they ready to dissociate themselves from people who support them for the wrong reasons? Look at the types they attract, and accept as allies.

Check their internal consistency. They bark

of freedom. Inquire what unpopular as well as popular freedoms they have ever spoken up for. They protest at the imposition of an authority above and outside their own; ask what respect they have shown towards authorities beneath and smaller than their own. Scrutinise their language. I do not mean the outward meaning of their sentences, but the vocabulary and verbal formulations for which they unwittingly reach: these are what send the signals. The use of the conjunction "but", as in "I respect and admire our continental cousins, but..." Such a formulation is designed to place nodal significance on the first half of the conjunction, while throwing all its real weight forward onto the second. Watch their reliance on knee-jerk expressions: boo-words and boo-phrases, sharp in impact but unspecific in meaning, such as "Brussels", "red tape" and "bureaucracy"; "jackboot", "German" (used with a gratuitous shudder), "sovereignty" and "interference".

Most of all, ask whether their language is subliminally designed to lift or lower. It is a curious feature of populist rhetoric (noted by Freud's student, the psycho-political theorist Wilhelm Reich) that although its surface meaning is of leadership and command, its subliminal appeal is to the resentful-

had made earlier in the season. Leicester to win the cup, which they have; Leicester to stay in the Premiership, which they are likely to; and Manchester United to win the title, which has still to be decided.

When the FA heard about this, however, it was on to him. "We still have to play United," he said, "and the FA wrote to me pointing out the conflict of interests, so I've had to cancel it." All is not lost, however, for Claridge, who admits to having gambled away some £300,000 during his footballing career. The bonus from winning the cup means that for the first time he has paid off his mortgage.

Ticket to ride

BRITAIN'S envoy to the United Nations, Sir John Weston, will tonight rip the "spirit of ecstasy" statuette off the bonnet of his ambassadorial Rolls-Royce Silver Spur (a light brown beauty) and hand it to Jimmy Hanway, his soft-spoken Glaswegian chauffeur.

Hanway is retiring after driving our men in Manhattan for 21 years, and Weston decided that he should receive the flying lady as a thank-you. It will be handed over at a party by the Hudson tonight.

It has not been easy being a diplomatic driver in New York recently, for mayor Rudolph Giuliani hates illegal parkers. For the record, the reliable Jimmy did not receive a single ticket in his entire career behind the wheel.

"Anyway," said a slightly miffed junior at the British UN embassy, "we British are about the only diplomats who actually do pay our fines. The Foreign Office insists on it." Unlike the Russians, who run up something like 20 tickets a day.

P.H.S

A party of positive Europeans

Tessa Blackstone says Labour will end our isolation

It was obvious from the start that the Tories would not be able to get through the election campaign without their differences on Europe surfacing. Last week's spectacle of Margaret Thatcher campaigning in the South of England against the single currency must have irritated her successor, although John Major escaped having to comment. There was no escape once one of his own ministers broke ranks. Angela Browning, an agriculture minister, announced that she is opposed to the single currency. The Prime Minister did not dismiss her. He feebly defended her, claiming she had said nothing inconsistent with Tory policy. He did so even though the Conservatives' own polls show that 72 per cent of the electorate support his "wait and see" position.

This week, two ministers expressed their opposition to a European currency within a few days of the Prime Minister's claim that it was a fantasy to suggest that ministers' election addresses would be at variance with government policy. Instead of sacking them, Major has caved in again. Apparently it is now possible to have a publicly stated personal view about policy which is different from the agreed government line, and yet stay in the Government.

In a manner unprecedented in the middle of a general election, the Prime Minister had on Wednesday to plead with his own candidates to support his position after it was revealed that nearly 200 have departed from the official party line of "wait and see" and have declared themselves opposed in principle to the single currency in their election addresses. Nearly a third of potential Tory MPs are now in open defiance of their leader on a crucial matter greatly affecting the nation's future. This means that were the Tories to win the election, the open warfare between the pro and anti-European wings of the party would be exacerbated, making it difficult for John Major to govern effectively, and robbing the Government of credibility abroad.

Nearly a quarter of a century after we joined the EEC, Britain's future prosperity and its role in the world are bound up with our membership. We export more to The Netherlands than to all the tiger economies of the Far East. We export twice as much to Denmark as to China. Our position as a major European power guarantees us influence in world trade talks which would vanish if we were out on our own. Inward investment from Japan and the United States has grown because we can offer access to the European market. In these circumstances it is hardly surprising that the chairman of Unilever and other leading businessmen are worried about the mess the Tories are in over Europe.

By contrast, over the past ten years Labour has gradually transformed itself from a party divided and suspicious about Europe into one united and realistic, which recognises the importance of playing a positive role in the shaping of Europe. Last week Michael Heseltine descended personal abuse in attacking Tony Blair's likely capacity to deal with Herr Kohl and M Chirac. Offensive personal remarks do not go down well with the electorate. Moreover, given the low reputation of Tory ministers on the Continent, the Deputy Prime Minister's attack will have been perceived by many to be from a position of weakness, not strength.

Last week I appeared on a panel for an ITN election special. Along with luminaries greater than I, there was also a zany character in semi-clerical clothes called John McCririck, a racing tipster for Channel 4. We discussed devolution and nationalism. "Look," said Mr McCririck, "at all the parties which have 'national' or 'nationalist' in their name. The Afrikaander National Party; Hitler's National Socialists; the Scottish and Welsh national parties." There was, he said, something horrid, something hateful, something mean and negative, about all of them. In all the thousands of words expended by us pundits during the course of that programme, only Mr McCririck's finger in my mind.

And so I shall cleave to John Major. If he wants to keep Britain's European options open, even though I expect he will have to close them in the end, I shall cleave to people like Geoffrey Howe, Douglas Hurd, Chris Patten, Ian Lang, Malcolm Rifkind, Nicholas Scott, though they often seem to me to be wrong. I shall cleave to Kenneth Clarke, though I wish he would change his mind. I shall cleave to all these people, not because I am sure they are right, but because they are good, decent men. Wherever they're going, I'm going too.

Please understand: I do not believe it is men, not measures. But measures alter, men endure; and, in the end, measures follow men. Therefore observe the man.



Conditions grow worse on St Helena, the South Atlantic island currently in revolt against its British Governor. Yesterday morning, a colleague tried to send a fax there only to find his fax call answered by a barking male voice. "Hello, Hello? Sorry, we can't accept any faxes until the next plane arrives. The island is completely out of paper."

Impertinence

WHILE no accusations of drug-taking aboard John Major's election jet have ever been levelled at an *Observer* journalist before, a writer from the paper did run into problems the last time round: he was thrown off the Tory battlebus in 1992.

Just as the weird author Will Self's alleged drug-taking proved a bit rich for Major this week, so the antics of John Sweeney, a self-styled "colour writer" for *The Observer*, was too much for the Tory high command in 1992.

Sweeney was at the time making a television documentary and carried with him a camcorder at all times, at one time asking the Prime Minister to film the documentary-maker himself. His attitude went down like a Piers Morgan sex-scandal. Sweeney was

asked not to return to the battlebus, on the basis that he was ignoring lobby terms.

• Chastened by a report in this newspaper that they were serving the worst travelling scum of all the main parties, the Liberal Democrats have been pulling their act together. Instead of the usual crisps and Danish pastries, journalists stepping onto the Lib Dem plane yesterday were greeted by stewardesses bearing bowls of fresh fruit and muesli bars.

Bets off

IN THE delirium after scoring the winning goal for Leicester in the Coca-Cola Cup final, Steve Clarke could not help telling the world about a three-part bet he

had made earlier in the season: Leicester to win the cup, which they have; Leicester to stay in the Premiership, which they are likely to; and Manchester United to win the title, which has still to be decided.

When the FA heard about this, however, it was on to him. "We still have to play United," he said, "and the FA wrote to me pointing out the conflict of interests, so I've had to cancel it." All is not lost, however, for Clarke, who admits to having gambled away some £300,000 during his footballing career. The bonus from winning the cup means that for the first time he has paid off his mortgage.

• *Illustration by Cliffton*
"I was making sure his desk was completely cleared"



Dress and model

OBITUARIES

CHAIM HERZOG

Chaim Herzog, President of Israel, 1983-93, died in Tel Aviv yesterday aged 78. He was born in Belfast on September 17, 1918.

Latterly a somewhat patrician-seeming figure in a country not noted for its tolerance of anything that approaches an assumption of social superiority, Chaim Herzog exemplified the qualities of that Ashkenazi (north European) elite which effectively created the state of Israel and guided its fortunes in the first thirty years of its existence.

He came of a copper-bottomed rabbinical family in Ireland and had a London University education before being called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn. He had served as an officer with the British Army in the Second World War. He fought in the battles that led to the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and rose thereafter to become a general in the Israeli Army. Called to the Israeli Bar at the end of his military career, he founded a highly-respected law firm before going on to develop a distinguished diplomatic career. In 1981 he was elected to the Knesset for the Labour Party.

Nevertheless, by the time Herzog was elected to the first of his two terms in the largely ornamental office of President in 1983, the political atmosphere had changed. Five years earlier the Labour Party, the instrument of Ashkenazi political will in Israel, had for the first time lost its control of the Knesset. A new breed of political "rough beasts", born in Israel and, with a historical memory forged entirely in the cauldron of that country's creation, was making its presence felt. Indeed, when the Labour Party put his name forward as a presidential candidate, his great friend Shimon Peres was at first reluctant to support him, from a feeling that the President of Israel ought to be of non-Ashkenazi origins.

In the event, Herzog's presidency

did not, in fact, suffer from a perception that he was one of "yesterday's men" — or that he considered himself a cut above the common herd. The services he had rendered his country were too great for that to happen. His immensely heartening broadcasts to the nation during the desperate early hours of the Six-Day War, when it first appeared that the Israeli state was on the verge of extinction, had earned him an iradicable place in the affections of the people. Both as Ambassador to the UN and as President, he presented his country's position on the international stage with courage and dignity.

Perhaps the somewhat complacent tone of his recently published memoir, *Living History*, did him and his solid achievements less justice.

A man of fairness and urbane good humour, Herzog retained to the end an admiration of the culture of the British Isles which had nurtured him. His appointment as honorary KBE in 1971 was one of his most prized honours.

Chaim Herzog was born in Belfast, the elder son of Rabbi Yitzhak Herzog, but grew up in Dublin, after the family moved there when his father was appointed Chief Rabbi of Ireland. Herzog went to a Dublin school and also joined the Jewish Macabbi youth movement.

He was sent by his father to Palestine in 1935 to study at a yeshiva (Talmudic college) in Jerusalem. While he was there he took the opportunity to join the Haganah (the Jewish Defence Force). He returned to Britain to take an LLB degree at London University and was subsequently called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn.

In 1939 he enlisted in the British Army and later took part in the Normandy landings and the North-West Europe campaign. He was among the first Allied soldiers to cross the Rhine and was wounded in the fighting around Bremen.

Having been called to the Israeli Bar, Herzog opened his own law firm and represented Sir Isaac Wolfson and his Great Universal Stores in Israel. But his interest in army and security matters remained intense. He won acclaim during the Six-Day War in 1967 with his radio commentaries. Although the war was very soon to be seen as a crushing victory, in the build-up to it the public was in a state of acute anxiety created by the Egyptian maritime blockade, by a sense that on all sides its enemies were closing in and hell-bent on its destruction.

Herzog's calm, analytical talks over the forces' radio network, spiced with a dose of humour (and

what some called Irish blarney), reassured a population which had initially been thoroughly alarmed by stories of Egyptian strength. During the Yom Kippur War of 1973, he was reinstated as Israel's chief military commentator on the radio, once again displaying his qualities as an astute observer. Again, he was widely listened to by a troubled population, which in the opening days of the conflict had to accept the fact that the Egyptian Army was making dramatic advances, while the Israelis fought to contain Syria on the Golan Heights.

After the Israeli occupation of the



passionate defence of his country's position, ripping a copy of the draft resolution to shreds when he went to the podium to speak against it.

He remained at his post in 1977 when the Government of Menachem Begin, with whom he had little sympathy, was formed, following the surprise defeat of the Labour Party. But he resigned in 1978 to return home to his law practice, his writing, his business interests, and the leadership of such organisations as Ort, for the world technical training of Jewish underground members who had been convicted of killing Arabs in the occupied West Bank.

Among Herzog's many trips abroad during his presidency was a visit in 1987 to the Nazi concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen which he had first seen as a British officer soon after its liberation in April 1945. One of his last foreign tours was a visit to Britain in February, 1993, when he discussed the progress of the Arab-Israeli peace process with the Prime Minister, John Major. Herzog retired as President in May of that year and was succeeded by Ezer Weizman.

At periods of inner tension in the country, Herzog, with his gift for words — the Irish brogue still distinct in his English and his Hebrew impeccable — his humour, and his refusal to take extreme stands, was valued as a source of strength and urbane reassurance, which was an antidote to the actions of the more excitable, rough and tough politicians of a younger generation.

Herzog suffered a heart attack in 1982, and it was while he was convalescing that he heard that he had been elected a member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. When Izak Navon announced that he would not seek another term as President, the Labour Party decided to put forward Herzog's name for the post, in opposition to the candidate presented by the governing Likud coalition, a worthy but little known judge of the Supreme Court, Professor Menachem Elon. With its command of the 64 out of 120 votes in the Knesset, the Likud seemed certain to have its candidate elected, but Herzog's popularity crossed party lines, and in March 1983, to the chagrin of Begin, Herzog

received 61 votes to Elon's 57. Like his brother-in-law Abba Eban (who was Foreign Minister, 1966-74) Herzog was occasionally perceived as being somewhat aloof from the concerns of ordinary people, and his image was also tarnished with the country's liberal Establishment when, in 1986, he granted presidential pardons to agents of the security service, Shin Bet, who had allegedly been involved in killing two Arab captives. In a similar case, in 1990 he was criticised for commuting the sentences of Jewish underground members who had been convicted of killing Arabs in the occupied West Bank.

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Herzog wrote several books on Israel's wars with the Arabs, as well as (with Mordecai Cohn) *Battles Of The Bible* (1978). In all his books, he wrote with lucidity and with good grasp of his subject. His wife, Aura, née Ambache (a member of a distinguished Egyptian-Jewish family), has been a leader of several cultural organisations in Israel. They had three sons and a daughter.

TADEUSZ ZENCZYKOWSKI ZAWADSKI



Tadeusz Zencykowsk Zawadski, wartime Polish resistance fighter, died on March 30 aged 90. He was born on January 2, 1907.

IN 1938, at the age of 31, Tadeusz Zencykowsk Zawadski became the youngest Member of Parliament in Poland. A year later the German forces invaded Poland. Zencykowsk Zawadski put forward a resolution that all MPs should volunteer for the Army. He himself led by example. By October 1939 he had been arrested and taken prisoner of war. Zencykowsk Zawadski escaped his captors a few months later and began those activities in the Polish Resistance which were to make him, at one time, perhaps the most wanted man in Poland.

He was the organiser of "Action N", a relentless, psychological and diversionary

campaign against his country's occupiers. It famously included the production and extensive distribution of what the Germans commonly believed to be a newspaper produced for the occupying forces by the Germans. Although, in the most subtle ways undermining of the occupiers, it could readily be obtained all over Poland.

By 1944 he had become one of the initiators and organisers of "Blyskawica" (Lightning), the only radio station to broadcast from the battleground of the ill-fated Warsaw uprising. He recruited people by his enthusiasm and conviction and actors, journalists and writers joined the radio team on short waves 42.8 and 52.1. Meanwhile, on medium wave, "Action N" continued its diversionary work, transmitting programmes aimed at the Wermacht.

Two years earlier, in the hope of capturing Zency-

kowski Zawadski, the Gestapo arrested, interrogated and tortured his wife, sending her first to Majdanek concentration camp and then to Auschwitz. She escaped only during the German evacuation of Poland in 1945. The couple were reunited and avoided further arrest by escaping to Italy where they joined the 2nd Polish Corps with whom they settled in Munich. In 1953 they settled in London.

But if his fight with Nazism had ended, the postwar years saw Zencykowsk Zawadski engaged in a tireless battle against Communism. He became deputy director of the Polish broadcasting department of Radio Free Europe.

For 20 years his broadcasts and political commentaries on the turbulent events taking place in his homeland were a regular feature of Polish life and the subject of widespread discussion. Listeners learnt what their own state radio refused to transmit.

At that time Warsaw had only three radio stations and concerted government efforts were made to ban and scramble transmissions, yet the Polish department of Radio Free Europe became universally known as "Warsaw 4".

In his retirement in the 1970s, Zencykowsk Zawadski left Munich to live in London.

During his life he had published numerous articles and pamphlets as well as books on the history of Poland and the Polish Resistance — some with print-runs in excess of 20,000 copies — many run off on the underground presses in Poland.

His work is often quoted by Polish historians today, many of whom were educated on these clandestine texts. From London he was in close contact with, and an active supporter of, KOR (the Workers Defence Committee) which was eventually to go on to spawn Solidarity.

He leaves his widow Darka. They had no children.

Eric Holt, English painter and craftsman, died of brain cancer on March 31 aged 52. He was born on May 12, 1944.

AN ECCENTRIC painter, Eric Holt was much more like such oddballs as Stanley Spencer and Edward Burra than any more conventional successors of Sicker and his traditions of art. Throughout his career he resolutely made his own way through the tangles of art.

In his childhood Holt was dyslexic and was assumed to be mentally backward. Fortunately he showed artistic talent and was chosen for a special art course at a nearby school when he was 13. From there he went to Epsom Art School for three years, and then, briefly, to Wimbledon School of Art before leaving to earn his living.

Holt was always primarily a painter. But he was almost fantastically slow and set himself exacting technical standards. He would work and rework his canvases again and again until he was convinced he had got them just right.

At the start of his career he took a heterogeneous array of jobs, including groundsmen on a caravan site, van driver, factory worker and digger of tunnels for a civil engineering firm. He moved on to restoring antique furniture — a craft which always fascinated him. In fact, if he had had the time, he would have liked to have built his own house, made his own furniture and grown all his own food.

He had a passion for the countryside and for nature. He also loved country crafts, some time before it became fashionable to do so. In the months before his death, when cancer had already been diagnosed, he set out to make a wooden table the top of which would be laid in samples from every British tree.

His expertise as a restorer was so valued by his employer

ERIC HOLT



Eric Holt's *The Feeding of the Five Thousand* (1983)

ers that they were far from pleased when he decided that he should concentrate entirely on his painting. But it increasingly became necessary for him to do so. While he had been working on other jobs he had been able to produce only two pictures a year.

From 1971 onwards, Holt was a fixture at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. In 1972 he had his first one-man show at the Malfzahn Gallery, and in 1977 he began to show at the Piccadilly Gallery. This was to remain his dealer for the rest of his life. Until 1978 he was living and working in Purley, but later he bought a cottage near Sandringham. He was amused that, despite the simplicity of the place, the Queen's personal signature was re-

quired on the deed of purchase.

Holt's usual subject-matter was meditatively observed people doing quite usual things but in a slightly bizarre, or even fantastic, context. His compositions were usually crowded and complex, his figures apparently pulled hither and thither by unseen forces which lent dynamism to even the most static subjects. Latterly, the pictures became more surreal, with increasing a touch of satire, as in *The Blind Leading the Blind* or *Bishops and Politicians*, both painted in the late 1980s. But the observation was quizzical rather than bitter.

Throughout his final illness he continued to work. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, and a son and a daughter.

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THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY APRIL 18 1997

NEWS

Major offers free vote on Europe

The Government's European policy was in confusion last night after John Major's two most senior ministers admitted they had not been consulted over his promise to give Tory MPs a free vote on joining a single currency.

Mr Major surprised and pleased Eurosceptics when he hinted that a free vote was likely. However, Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke played down suggestions that the party's policy had changed.

Pages 1, 9-14, 20, 21, 29

20 new peers in surprise Downing St list

John Major has surprised colleagues by naming about 20 new peers in the middle of the election campaign. Up to six former Labour MPs and some from other parties will be among those heading for the House of Lords in the list to be announced by Downing Street at midnight tonight.

Page 1

Old Master export

One of the most ravishing landscapes by Poussin, the 17th-century French master, is likely to leave Britain for the Getty Museum in California.

Page 1

Family airline

British Airways is in a delicate condition: four months after sending stewardesses on free holidays with their husbands 10 per cent are pregnant.

Page 1

IRA murder charges

A man was charged with three IRA murders in Northern Ireland over a 19-year period, including the shooting of Lance Bomber Stephen Rostock last February.

Pages 1, 2

Gang on film

Police hunting a gang who attacked Michael Green, the chairman of Carlton Communications, and his wife released closed-circuit film showing the thieves tailing his Rolls Royce.

Page 3

Alzheimer's blamed

More than half of older drivers killed in road accidents were suffering from Alzheimer's or were in the early stages of the disease, a study has found.

Page 4

FA Cup ticket anger

Thousands of angry Chesterfield football fans failed to obtain tickets for the replay of the team's FA Cup semi-final match with Middlesbrough because they went on sale early.

Page 5

Deadlock on Nato

Germany and Russia failed to make the decisive breakthrough needed to gain Moscow's acceptance for the eastward enlargement of Nato.

Page 17

RAC back-pedals in face of gridlock

The RAC has announced an image change, unveiling its own fold-up bike, and urging motorists to take to two wheels on short journeys. Britain's oldest motoring organisation says a fifth of all car journeys are "frivolous and unnecessary" and fears a future of motorists "sitting bumper to bumper all day".

It is offering a £10 membership for non-motorists.

Page 5



Michael Heseltine joins Dr Kabir Choudhury, the local Tory candidate (with his thumb up), on the election trail in Brick Lane, east London

CO-OP

Two of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's most senior staff have been suspended under suspicion of a suspected breach of trust.

Page 25

Cut price: The European Court has banned the mail-order sale of cut-price cigarettes in Britain.

Page 25

House of Fraser: The chairman and chief executive of the department store group vowed to resign if they failed to restore the company's fortunes by the year's end.

Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 4.3 to close at 4298.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 99.7 to 100.0 after a rise from \$1.6222 to \$1.6288 and from DM2.8040 to DM2.8102.

Page 28

DOLE

Dole helps out

Bob Dole, making a last-minute and completely unexpected overture, surprised Washington by lending Newt Gingrich the money to pay a Congressional ethics fine of \$300,000.

Page 15

WALK-OUT

Manhattan's most prized employees, the peak-capped apartment block doormen, are threatening to go on strike over pay.

Page 15

NETANYAHU

Netanyahu fightback

Israel's beleaguered Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, launched a spirited fightback against attempts to force him out of office after police recommendations that he be charged with fraud.

Page 16

DEADLOCK

On Nato

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Page 17

RAC

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TODAY



BUSINESS

Anatole Kaletsky
on the reasons for
EMU 'wait and see'
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EDUCATION

How a child lost
out for a secondary
school place
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SPORT

Cronje runs rule
over Australia's
Ashes tour party
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TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
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FRIDAY APRIL 18 1997

Co-op suspends two after leaks



BY JASON NISSE

THE Co-operative Wholesale Society has suspended two of its most senior staff under suspicion of a serious breach of trust relating to dealings with companies controlled by Andrew Regan, the entrepreneur who has been trying to buy parts of the CWS.

Allan Green, who was promoted to the post of retail chief only in November, and David Chambers, who succeeded Mr Green as head of the £3 billion buying organisation, the Co-operative Retail Trading Group, were both relieved of their duties at CWS's

Manchester headquarters yesterday morning.

Mr Green is one of the five-strong management executive of the CWS and both he and Mr Chambers are part of the trading committee that effectively runs the retailing giant. The two worked together at Hillsards, the Yorkshire food retailer bought by Tesco in the 1980s. Mr Green left to join Booker and came to the CWS in 1990, while Mr Chambers joined the CWS in 1993 after a spell at Poundstretcher.

CWS said there was a suspected recent breach of trust — believed to be connected to the leaks of extracts from CWS's annual report which

were passed to last weekend's press by public relations firms acting for Mr Regan.

The CWS has asked Linklaters & Paines, the solicitors, and KPMG, the accountants, to investigate business dealings between CWS operations run by Mr Green and Mr Chambers and companies controlled by Mr Regan.

The CWS sold F E Barber, its food manufacturing business, to Mr Regan's Hobson for £11 million in 1994. Eighteen months later Hobson was sold to Hillsdown Holdings for £121 million with Mr Regan making a £2.7 million profit from the deal.

Mr Regan re-emerged in

Lanica Trust, a Guernsey-based group, last year. After stories appeared in February about a possible bid by Lanica for part of the CWS its shares were suspended by the Stock Exchange. Talks between the Exchange and Lanica, along with Hambros, its financial advisers, about an alleged breach of Exchange rules have been progressing. But no conclusion has been reached and the shares remain suspended.

Mr Regan and Lanica yesterday refused to comment on the suspensions either of the CWS managers or of the Lanica shares. Lanica missed this week's deadline to put a motion to the CWS annual

meeting in Manchester next month. Previously it had hinted that if CWS was to sell any businesses it would sell them directly to companies interested in the operations, not "an asset-stripping middleman".

Mr Regan's approach in the subject of an early day motion in Parliament after the election. Before the dissolution Labour MPs were sponsored by the Co-operative movement and they have the support of at least a further 30 Labour candidates for a motion that would describe Mr Regan as an "asset stripper".

Graham Melmoth, chief executive of CWS, this week said

that if CWS was to sell any businesses it would sell them directly to companies interested in the operations, not "an asset-stripping middleman".

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Co-operative movement and they have the support of at least a further 30 Labour

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Pennington, page 27

Inflation falls to lowest for two years, but short of Tory target

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

UNDERLYING inflation dropped to its lowest level for two years in March, but left the Government just short of meeting its own inflation target.

The Government's favoured measure of inflation, which excludes mortgage payments, fell to an annual rate of 2.7 per cent in March, compared with 2.9 per cent in February.

In spite of the Government's vow to reduce inflation to a maximum of 2.5 per cent by the time of the election, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said the figures showed that Britain is enjoying the longest period of

low inflation for nearly 50 years.

Headline inflation also declined, hitting an annual rate of 2.6 per cent, edging down from 2.7 per cent in February, according to data published by the Office for National Statistics.

The better than expected figures helped to push the pound slightly higher yesterday, closing nearly a pence higher against the mark at DM2.8102. Sterling's trade-weighted index, meanwhile, also climbed 0.3 to 100.0.

Economists said that the latest decline in inflation was a result of continuing falls in food prices.

Mild spring weather helped to lower the price of seasonal vegetables in March. Seasonal foods have now fallen in price by 15.6 per cent over the past year, the largest decline since 1983. Overall food prices have fallen 1.6 per cent in the last year, the largest fall since 1960, as food retailers have competed on price.

However, inflation rates in clothing and footwear, as well as household goods, rose sharply as retailers took advantage of growing consumer confidence to push through price increases.

Household goods inflation rose 2.5 per cent in March, pushing up the annual rate to 1.7 per cent from 0.9 per cent the previous month. Clothing and footwear prices jumped 2 per cent taking the annual rate to 1.1 per cent, from 0.5 per cent in February.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC, said that the strong pound and competition among retailers would continue to keep inflation low for the rest of the year. However, some economists are saying that interest rates will still need to rise to protect against the medium-term threat of high service-sector inflation and tentative evidence that consumers are becoming less resistant to high street price rises.

Mr Bootle forecasts that underlying inflation will fall to 2.25 per cent by the end of the year, adding that domestic petrol prices should also fall following the decline in international oil prices.

Cigarettes ban sparks snap reply

THE European Court yesterday banned the sale of cut-price cigarettes by mail order in Britain (Alasdair Murray writes).

But the founders of the Enlightened Tobacco Company, which lost the case, are aiming to bounce back with a new cut-price cigarette product.

The new brand, named 24!, is a cigarette with a filter in the middle that can be snapped in half to make two smaller cigarettes. ETC claims that the Government will only be able to claim duty on the 20 cigarettes contained in a packet, not the 40 cigarettes that smokers will actually get.

ETC, makers of the Death cigarette brand, had appealed to the European Court against an earlier High Court ruling.

ETC set up a mail-order business in Luxembourg, supplying cigarettes at up to 40 per cent below UK prices. It argued that EU single market laws allowed agents to supply products from abroad for individual customers but this was opposed by Customs and Excise.

24! challenge, page 28



Engineers at Harland & Wolff assessing the damage sustained by *Sea Empress*

Tanker returns as Sea Spirit

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE *Sea Empress*, the tanker that shed more than 70,000 tonnes of oil when it ran aground last year, will set sail again next month.

Renamed *Sea Spirit*, the vessel will emerge from a £22 million refit — the biggest undertaken in the UK — to resume transporting oil for its Cypriot owners.

More than 2,800 tonnes of steel have gone into the ship to repair damage done when *Sea Empress* became stranded off Milford Haven in South Wales in February last

year. The giant tanker, which is the length of three football fields and can carry 130,000 tonnes of crude oil, will leave the dry dock at Belfast's Harland & Wolff shipyard by early next month. It is owned by Seatekers, who will put the ship on the spot market for hire on a voyage-by-voyage basis to take oil from fields to buyers. The name has been changed to ward off bad luck, the ship's operators say.

Sea Empress caused an environmental disaster when it ran aground. Thousands of seabirds died and the shellfish industry had to be suspended. The Environment Agency is considering a prosecution of the Department of Transport and Millford Haven port authority for alleged mishandling of the accident.

Harland & Wolff began the massive repair last August. The contract helped the struggling shipyard, which this month announced job cuts, to declare its first profit for many years this year.

Peenington, page 27

HoF chiefs put their jobs on the line

BY JASON NISSE

THE chairman and chief executive of House of Fraser yesterday vowed to resign if they failed to restore the fortunes of the ailing department stores company by the end of the year.

Brian McGowan, the chairman, said he would "fall on his sword" and leave without compensation if the initiatives put in place by John Coleman, brought in as chief executive last year, did not work.

These include the launch of a new own brand, due to be unveiled in July, which Mr Coleman said would provide a confident designer image at affordable prices, as well as low-cost refits of stores

and streamlining management, which will cut 1,000 of the 8,600 employees. By this summer we will have cleaned our act up," Mr Coleman said.

Mr McGowan also vowed there would be no more exceptional write-offs after £53.2 million of exceptional losses plunged the group to a £38.4 million loss for the year to January 25. Like-for-like sales rose 15.8 per cent in concessions but only 2.5 per cent in the part of the stores for which Fraser was entirely responsible.

The pre-exceptonal profit showed an increase of just £500,000. The loss per share was 11.9p against a 5p profit and a final dividend of 5.8p, payable on July 1. leaves an unchanged 5.5p for the year.

Mr Coleman said the company had no plans to dispose of more stores, after withdrawing from Eastbourne, Scunthorpe and Sheffield. He said Fraser was close to selling one of these stores and talks were progressing on the other two.

The low cost refurbishment of four stores, costing between £10 per square foot and £20 per square foot, will be rolled out in another 15 stores if it is successful.

Mr Coleman said he would also change the mix of products in the department stores to reflect the different demographics of the customers.

The shares rose 1.2p to 16.5p on the figures.

Tempus, page 28



Coleman: making changes

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BBA plea on banks directive

The British Bankers' Association has called for swift implementation of amendments to a European directive on the amount of capital that banks should set aside to cover risk exposure to loans and market trading positions.

The European Commission has formally adopted a proposal to amend the Capital Adequacy Directive 1993, which will bring EU laws on supervision into line with the more international rules amended recently by the Bank of International Settlements.

Once the European amendments become law the Bank of England and the Securities and Futures Authority will issue their own guidance on the level of the capital they expect to be posted by UK banks and trading houses to cover different types of risk.

Action ahead

Action Computer Supplies is paying a maiden interim dividend of 1p a share after lifting pre-tax profits 61 per cent to £2.3 million in the six months to February 28. Earnings rose to 4.3p a share from 3.8p. The dividend is due June 17.

Boot better

Henry Boot, the construction and property group, lifted pre-tax profits to £9.39 million (£8.69 million) over 1996. Earnings were 25.1p (23.6p) a share. A final dividend of 3.9p, payable on June 6, lifts the total to 8p (7.4p).

Guiton up

Guiton Group, which publishes the Jersey Evening Post, lifted pre-tax profits 13 per cent to £3.95 million in 1996. Earnings rose to 13.6p a share (11.6p). A final dividend of 2.84p lifts the total to 4.66p from 4.24p.

Out of bid

British Energy, the nuclear generator, has withdrawn from a consortium that is bidding for the coal-fired Loy Yang A power station in Australia, which is valued at more than A\$4 billion (about £2 billion).



Ball winner: Doug Ellis, centre, gets stuck in yesterday against Mark Ansell, finance director, left, and Steven Stride, company secretary

Treasury urged to repay pension fund millions

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE Treasury is under mounting pressure to repay hundreds of millions of pounds of surpluses removed from occupational pension schemes when the associated companies were privatised.

The case load of Julian Farrand, the Pensions Ombudsman, has been growing in recent months after a number of separate rulings in which he has found that pension fund surpluses should be returned for the benefit of more than 100,000 scheme members.

The handling of pension fund surpluses was highlighted yesterday when Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Subject to legal challenges to

Union, called for "straight answers about the Government's Maxwell-style theft of bus pensioners' money".

Mr Morris said that the Treasury should "pay back the £168 million surplus . . . lifted from the pension fund when the National Bus Company was privatised in 1986". He said that the Government, by removing that sum, had deprived 40,000 pensioners of about £1,000 a year.

A number of Dr Farrand's rulings are expected to be challenged in the courts, in-

cluding his decision on the former National Bus scheme. The pension fund and the company where wound up in 1991, when the Department of Transport took over residual assets and the liabilities.

Last September Dr Farrand directed the trustees "to take, without delay, all practicable steps to obtain the return of monies paid from the scheme's funds in breach of trust", plus interest.

The National Bus case is to come to court this year. The Government will pay the legal costs to challenge its liability.

ITN has won a High Court

order to overturn a decision by the Pensions Ombudsman on guaranteed rises in pensions.

Members of the ITN pension scheme have been in a two-year battle over the television company's decision to cut pension benefits.

About 300 members claimed that ITN had guaranteed to increase their pensions by 4 per cent or by inflation, whichever was more. ITN disputed this, and the case went to the ombudsman.

He had decided that the scheme promised guaranteed rises based on contributions made before October 19, 1979.

The charges also include an £815,000 write-down of work in progress and £395,000 for an accountant's review of the management reporting systems. The interim dividend is unchanged at 1p.

Sir William said he was satisfied that management problems had been resolved.

Chesterton is changing its

group. Four directors are stepping down from the 13-strong

£500,000 in redundancy costs.

Pennington, page 27

Chesterton names new chief

BY CARL MORIHOUSE

CHESTERTON International, the surveying firm that found a £1.4 million hole in its accounts last year, has hired a chief executive from outside the property industry.

Chesterton had a first-half pre-tax loss of £3.3 million, against a £2 million deficit last time. Reorganisation charges were £2.2 million in the six months to December, including £500,000 in redundancy costs.

Chesterton board, but will remain with the company.

Sir William Wells, chairman, said: "Surveyors are very good at doing their job, but they are not very good at managing businesses."

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Pennington, page 27

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	Bank Boys	Bank Girls
Australia S	2.19	2.05
Austria Sch	20.28	18.95
Belgium Fr	60.67	58.17
Canada \$	2.95	2.85
Denmark Kr	11.11	10.38
Finland Milk	8.80	8.25
France Fr	10.01	9.15
Germany Dm	2.95	2.73
Greece Dr	4.55	4.25
Hong Kong \$	13.51	12.25
Iceland Kr	1.77	1.67
Ireland P	1.11	1.00
Israel Shek	8.82	8.17
Italy Lira	2.95	2.75
Japan Yen	21.20	20.20
Malta L	0.65	0.55
Netherlands Gld	3.21	3.05
New Zealand \$	1.11	1.05
Norway Kr	11.98	11.16
Portugal Esc	882.50	7.05
R Africa Pd	7.50	7.05
Spain Pt	24.00	22.50
Sweden Kr	13.25	12.25
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.25
Turkey Lira	221.60	207.60
USA \$	1.72	1.66

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Tax Team to double in size

THE Tax Team, the chain of "tax shops", plans to double its network to 27 offices by the end of the year after its acquisition by H&R Block of America.

Gerry Hart, managing director, said the company was seeking to expand its operations in Bristol, Edinburgh, Leeds and London via a combination of new franchises and company-owned offices.

Based in Kansas City, Missouri, H&R Block is the leading preparer of individual tax returns in the US, with 14.9 million clients last year. It would not disclose how much it had paid for The Tax Team but said it was talking to other accountancy firms in the UK. Its move comes after last week's Inland Revenue introduction of self-assessment.

Tempus, page 28

Villa float will make Ellis £4m

BY JASON NISSE

DOUG ELLIS, Aston Villa's 73-year-old chairman, said yesterday that he has no intention of retiring nor has he considered any successor in spite of realising £4 million from the Premiership football club's £125 million flotation.

Villa is raising £20 million.

Mr Ellis is cutting his stake to 33.4 per cent, valued at £42.1 million. The rest of the money raised is earmarked for improvements at the club's Villa Park ground. Villa is spending £6 million immediately on executive boxes and other improvements.

As second development, to increase capacity to 50,000 at the cost of £11.4 million, is due to start next summer. Meanwhile, the remaining £10 million raised from the float will be used to buy players.

Villa is predicting an operating profit of £5 million this year, a fall of £644,000, largely because of the team's poor showing in cup competitions. It has recently signed nine players on long-term contracts, which will increase the wage bill by £2 million to £9.7 million this year and by another £700,000 next year.

A quarter of the issue is reserved for private investors. Minimum application is £440.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Peugeot blames price war for sharp fall

PEUGEOT, the French carmaker, blamed a price war in its domestic market for a 57 per cent fall in profits last year. A restructuring programme is to cut 1,200 jobs, but the plant in Coventry will not be affected. Jacques Calvet, chairman, said that competitive discounting would continue this year with no sign of a let-up. Further losses were expected in the European car industry, he said.

M Calvet added: "The price war was the main feature of 1996. European carmakers all reported sharp earnings declines. Renault and Ford Europe posted losses. Peugeot's profit was cut by more than half and Fiat's operating margin fell by two thirds. Peugeot profits are falling in spite of last year's 10.5 per cent jump in French car sales. The group reported net profit of £75 million (£170 million) and pre-tax profits of £100 million (£240 million).

Pizza chain stake cut

LUKE JOHNSON, founder of PizzaExpress, has capitalised on the pizza chain's surging share price by selling a fifth of his stake for £1 million. Mr Johnson, who recently said his biggest regret was not owning more of the company, will be left with a 0.89 per cent holding. He sold for 670p per share, against the 20p a share cost of buying the cash shell that became the foundation of the group. The shares, which have doubled in the past nine months alone, eased 1p to 671p yesterday.

Norwich vote today

ABOUT 1,000 members of Norwich Union are expected to attend today's extraordinary meeting at the London Arena to vote on the mutual life insurer's plans for a stock market flotation. A total of 2.9 million members are eligible to vote on plans for the 200-year-old insurer to become a public limited company. Norwich Union needs a 75 per cent vote in favour in order to press ahead with its plans for a stock market listing in June.

Discounts hit Smurfit

DISCOUNTING in containerboard prices continued to take its toll on earnings at Jefferson Smurfit Corporation (JSC), the US company that is 46.5 per cent owned by the Jefferson Smurfit paper group. JSC suffered a net loss of \$7 million or 6 cents a share in the first quarter, compared with a net profit of \$53 million or 48 cents a share for the same period last year. Sales slipped to \$778 million, down from \$916 million in the first quarter of 1996.

EMI's former HQ sold

THE former headquarters of EMI, where the Beatles signed their earliest record deals, has been sold to Conrad Ribot, the property group, for £10 million. The property, in London's Manchester Square, was owned by Prudential and had been empty for nine months after newly demerged EMI moved to neighbouring Oxford Street. It is the second-largest transaction the property group has undertaken and will be funded through a 33-for-100 placing and open offer at 245p.

BATM advances 12%

BATM, the Israeli manufacturer of data processing equipment that floated on the Alternative Investment Market last July, reported a 12.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to \$32.74 million from \$27.4 million for the year to December 31. Turnover rose 28 per cent to \$97.5 million (£7.62 million). Earnings per share fell to 10.59 cents (10.73 cents). The company plans to use the \$8 million raised from its flotation to buy a US distribution business. Its maiden and total dividend of 5 cents is due on June 16.

British Building in talks

BRITISH Building and Engineering Appliances, the building materials and services company, confirmed that it is in talks with Britannia Group, the construction company, that may lead to an offer for the company. British Building, after disposals, has manufacturing, hire service and housebuilding businesses. It made a profit for the first time in two years in its half to December 31, with a pre-tax £40,000 (£1.3 million loss). Earnings were 0.5p a share (10.9p loss). There is again no interim dividend.

Matthew Hall writ

MATTHEW HALL, the engineering arm of the Amec construction group, is claiming £121 million plus interest from George Wimpey because of a dispute over the Centre for Deep Sea Oceanography in Southampton. Matthew Hall claims it is owed money for work done and materials supplied on the development. Although its writ names Tarmac Construction, which took over Wimpey's contracting business last year, liability in the dispute was retained by Wimpey.

BRISTOL & WEST

BUILDING SOCIETIES ACT 1986

Notice under paragraph 7 of Schedule 17 to the Act.

Co-op allegations cloud Lanica purchase Tale of two property companies Whither for Alan Sugar and Amstrad?

IF the purchase of large swaths of the Co-operative movement by a souped-up 1980s-style wheeler-dealer looked implausible yesterday morning, it looked the closest thing to downright impossible by the afternoon. Andrew Regan was already being depicted by the Co-op management as a man in league with the Devil; if the allegations about his relationship with two of its apparent stalwarts are even remotely true, members will be inclined to issue him with the full horns and tail.

Ever since the intentions of Mr Regan's Lanica Trust, and its Galileo vehicle, towards the Co-op became known, there has always been a suspicion that he had some edge that no one had yet spotted, some key that would gain him entry to the sealed room and let him makeaway with the valuables. This impression was heightened, it must be said, by those few of his advisers prepared to speak.

The hints were that there was indeed some such angle. Can't say what, give the lad time, something up his sleeve, you'll see. Was he going straight to the members for grass roots support for change at the top? Difficult but not impossible under the Co-op's structure of executives who are delegated power by those members. Something like that, really can't say, was the only reply.

If the allegations made by the Co-op are true, then at least one advantage Mr Regan had was access to inside information. And if that is the case, then suborning two top executives will endear him even less to those members and reinforce his image as a City spiv. End of bid — finally. Now get lost, and take your battered reputation with you.

And if so, there is no reason for the continued suspension of Lanica shares. The Stock Exchange should insist on the relevant information from the company to allow trading to restart, so those of his backers who have lost faith with Mr Regan can get out. If the share price tumbles it will only be back to where it should have been all along.

But while Mr Regan may have played his cards appallingly, from the first leak of his intentions through the months of silence interspersed with nods and winks, the legacy of the affair may not be entirely negative. Things at the Co-op will never be the same, and they can only improve. The merger between the retail and wholesale

To the Devil his due

arms may have been rejected, but it still looks inevitable. Light has been thrown on the value of the Co-op Bank and its quality customer base. Members have been woken up to the under-performance of much of the retail business.

Pressure for change and demutualisation will come from them. There are two possibilities. Either the Co-op's existing management will find the ability to shake up the business itself. Or someone rather more acceptable to the spirit of the Co-op movement will make a more tactful approach to do the job, and be welcomed this time.

Chesterton looks to new Holmes

EXTRAORDINARY how these professionals paid small fortunes to order our affairs are so spectacularly awful at ordering their own. Accountants and solicitors are notoriously bad at managing their businesses, while the rebirth of the housing market will not have come a moment too early for the nation's

estate agents. Many have made a pig's ear of their own property needs, committed themselves to huge rental bills on outlets that are no longer pulling in the fees.

The housing upturn has come too late, alas, for Chesterton International, owner of some rather posh estate agents, or those investors asked to put up for new shares at 78p six months before the company found that some £1.4 million of profits were under offer elsewhere.

The black hole turned up by the accountants cost the chief executive his job in September, and yesterday his replacement arrived to continue the clearout — and the one-off write-downs. Chestertons, which had managed to cram 13 people into the

boardroom without any of them noticing anything was wrong, will now have to rub along with a mere nine directors.

The fund-raising a year ago was to buy back for a song its old chain of estate agents, sold 11 years ago to the Pru as part of the latter's *via dolorosa* through property services. This looks a shrewd move, given the progress of the housing market since, as does diversification into other areas of consultancy work.

But it is the provenance of the new chief executive that gives the game away. He joins from Kentokil, there is a load of guff about Michael Holmes's experience in the construction industry, blah, blah, but he is a rat-catcher, from a company well respected for its rat-catching skills. Management expertise will out, it seems.

Just look across to another part of the property jungle and Conrad Riblal, the side annexe of John Riblal of British Land fame, with a £10 million purchase and an upbeat trading statement. Mr Riblal has cleverly been building up the property assets to reduce reliance on

estate agency. He may know plenty about property, but Mr Riblal also knows a thing or two about running companies.

Cash is the question

THIS morning the shareholders of Amstrad will turn up at an extraordinary general meeting and, unless they suffer a collective attack of stupidity, vote to approve the group's £92 million sale of its mobile phone business, Dancall. As Alan Sugar put it, Bosch made an offer he could hardly refuse. But his other comments, about finding a tax-efficient way of returning the money to shareholders, are sounding hollow. Amstrad shareholders, of which Sugar is the biggest, wait in vain.

Having had a good look at Amstrad, the Stock Exchange has decided it does not breach the listing requirements which forbid companies with only cash from maintaining a quote. The Exchange believes that Amstrad still has a substantial business, but the market appears to disagree.

Sea change

THE spirit of Windscale is alive and well. Younger readers may need reminding that Windscale is what Sellafield used to be called before the image consultants decided the name cast a bit of a pall when it came to booking day trips around the facility, and changed it. Now *Sea Empress* is re-launched as *Sea Spirit*. God bless her, and can safely go back to the South Wales coast again.

Fisher must change ways, says England

By PAUL DURMAN

NEIL ENGLAND, the new chief executive of Albert Fisher, has outlined a host of changes the poorly performing food company still needs to make, nearly five years after it began its attempted turnaround.

Mr England, who joined from the Mars confectionery group in November, said Fisher had underinvested in its workforce, including management. The company needs to modernise the management of its factories and to improve productivity. He said it needs to make better use of new product ideas and to take the initiative in advising supermarkets how to display its products. He also wants to extend the use of the Fisher brand throughout the group.

Mr England said his comments are not intended as a criticism of the past, but a change of focus. Stephen Wallis, chairman, said that since he took over in July 1992 Fisher had sold 60 per cent of its businesses as it moved away from commodity foods into higher-margin areas.

Mr England has ordered a "management audit" as part of a group-wide training initiative. He wants to set written objectives for every employee.

Mr Wallis said Fisher had a good half in the six months to February 28, increasing underlying pre-tax profits from £18.8 million to £19.1 million. "Clean" earnings rose 5 per cent to 1.97p a share. Mr Wallis said he was "absolutely delighted" not to have to report further exceptional losses and write-offs.

The strong pound cost Fisher £1.3 million in profits. Sales of the continuing business fell slightly to £589.4 million, but would have been £30 million higher if sterling had remained unchanged. The company also had to overcome the "devastation" of its Dutch cocktail beds by last year's severe winter, and the collapse in potato and other vegetable prices.

Fisher is again paying an interim dividend of 1.85p, due on July 4.

Tempus, page 28

THE ENGLISH ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR GARDENS.
NO WONDER THE GERMANS ASK US TO LOOK AFTER THEIR PLANTS.

Approval for C&W venture

By ERIC REGULY

SHAREHOLDERS in Cable and Wireless have approved the formation of Cable and Wireless Communications, a £5 billion phone and cable company that will emerge as British Telecom's biggest competitor.

CWC is to be created by the merger of Mercury Communications, which is 80 per cent owned by C&W, and the Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron cable companies. C&W will own 52.6 per cent of CWC, whose shares are to begin trading at the end of the month on the London and New York stock exchanges.

The new company will start with 1.1 million cable-telephony customers, 580,000 cable-TV customers and pro forma turnover of £1.9 billion, based on year-end figures. Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, said that CWC would grow by expanding its cable networks and through acquisitions. Several medium-size cable companies, including General Cable, are thought to be on its shopping list.

Japanese link for Tie Rack

By FRASER NELSON

TIE RACK, the tie and luggage retailer, is setting up a £9 million joint venture in Japan with Fujita, the Japanese retailing group.

The company, which has been testing the Japanese market for almost two years, plans to open ten shops in the country by the end of the year.

Nigel McGinley, chief executive, said: "Japan is an extremely expensive market to operate in, but we're not expecting high returns in the short term."

Fujita, which owns 50 per cent of the Japanese operations of McDonald's and 20 per cent of the country's Toys R Us business, has been running 27 Tie Rack shops under licence.

Tie Rack lifted pre-tax profits 11 per cent to £8.79 million in the 12 months to February 2.

It opened 36 shops over the year, bringing the total to 415. It now runs 21 airport concessions in 11 countries. Earnings were 10.73p (9.87p) a share, and the dividend rises to 3.35p (2.75p). A final 2.75p is payable on July 29.

Prudential sales point to savings slowdown

SIGNS that recent strong growth in the British savings market is flattening emerged yesterday when the Prudential reported sales of single-premium products rising by just 2 per cent to £885 million in the first quarter of the year (Marion Curphy writes).

The market leader was helped, however, by buoyant sales of savings products in the US and Asia. These pushed Prudential's worldwide single-premium sales up 22 per cent to £1.8 billion in the

first quarter. Prudential is the biggest name in UK pensions, and the first-quarter figures are widely regarded as an industry barometer. Regular-premium products in the UK were more buoyant, up 18 per cent to £84 million.

The figures come just two months after Prudential launched a £20 million advertising campaign to modernise its image. A series of TV commercials feature Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive, as "the man from the Pru".

ever done any gardening? The basic rates are as follows:

1. Under 200 sq ft, £100 plus 50p per sq ft.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Klondike mood likely on bids for A&L shares

THE Square Mile is likely to resemble the Klondike today when City institutions start bidding for stock in the Alliance & Leicester Building Society before next week's flotation.

It looks as though institutional demand for the shares will be much higher than originally expected. Cazenove, the broker, said this week that A&L members had opted to sell almost 27 per cent per cent of their shares.

These will be offered in a series of auctions, starting today. It had been thought the bidding would start at about the 490p level, but that figure was being revised upwards last night. Other brokers are claiming that if fund managers hope to succeed they may have to pitch their offers as high as 520p a share. Demand is likely to be such that a second or third auction may prove unnecessary.

The real winners will be the Alliance & Leicester members, who have each been allocated 250 free shares and now stand to enjoy a windfall worth about £1,300.

Share prices generally greeted news of the drop in the March inflation figure, which should be enough to limit the expected rise in interest rates after the general election to a quarter point. But the market failed to capitalise on it, not helped by a cautious start to trading in New York. The FTSE 100 index touched 4,312.3 before seeing its lead cut to just 4.3 points at 4,298.9 at the close. Once again, trading was thin, with just 687 million shares changing hands.

LucasVarity fell 3p to 193.3p as it began the first stage of its proposed share buyback. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker acting for the Anglo-American automotive components group, is thought to have attempted to pick up a total of ten million shares, or less than 1 per cent of the issued capital at 1980. A total of 14 million had traded by the close. LucasVarity has shareholder permission to buy up to 4.25 million shares. Earlier this week, the group cut the dividend but promised to enhance shareholder value.

There was a crumb of comfort for Michael Green, chief executive of Carlton Communications, as he recovered from a mugging. A "buy" recommendation from Morgan Stanley lifted Carlton ZSC to 528.1p. The US securi-



Stephen Walls, chairman of Albert Fisher, left, and Neil England, chief executive, saw the share price soften

it in the red to the tune of £38.4 million. The shares finished 4p firmer at 465p.

The latest drop in inflation prompted selective support for the other retailers. Kingfisher rose 13p to 670p. Boots 10.2p to 696.4p. Blacks Leisure 14.2p to 475p. Next 20.2p to 648p. and Wickes 6p to 155.7p.

JJB Sports continued to reflect on this week's bumper

house is excited by the group's involvement in British Digital Broadcasting, which is bidding for a terrestrial licence. It says this would provide strong profits growth well into the next century.

National Grid was another firm market, finishing 4.2p higher at 223.2p with the help of positive comments from Goldman Sachs. Redland fell

5p to 337.4p as a large line of stock came on offer at a discount to the ruling price. A total of 4.46 million shares were offered at 333p, with 3.8 million sold on at 333p.

Full-year figures from House of Fraser bore the scars of reconstruction, but were broadly in line with what brokers had been looking for. Provisions of £5.2 million left

figures and subsequent profit upgrades by brokers with a rise of 23p to 452p. David Whelan, founder and chairman, has denied suggestion he plans to sell out of the company although he may sell part of his 30 per cent stake.

As expected the Bank of England has decided to issue a further "top" consisting of £200 million of Index-Linked Treasury 2% per cent 2013.

In the future pit the June series of the Long Gilt put on £15.22 at £110.52 as the number of contracts completed reached 70,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was 1.91p better at £102.21, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1.6p better at £102.21.

□ GILT-EDGED: The drop in inflation produced a new lease of life for the London bond market, with prices chased higher in thin trading. Sentiment was also underpinned by a firm start for US Treasury bonds.

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□ NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks held their gains in early trading as the Dow Jones industrial average extended its rally to a fourth day. At midday, the index was up 19.27 points to 6,699.14.

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THE
TIMES

CITY
DIARY

Bowe upsets
Abbott

COLETTE Bowe, PIA chief executive, has incurred the wrath of Diane Abbott, who has accused her of misleading the Treasury Select Committee. Abbott, a member of Labour's National Executive Committee, says she was deliberately given the wrong impression last month over the PIA's handling of the pensions transfer review. She accused Bowe of ingratiating herself with members of the Labour Party ahead of its plans to merge the PIA, Imro, and SFA, into a Super-SIB. "Bowe is a clever woman, perhaps too clever by half," she hissed. "She has been trying to ingratiate herself into a job in any new regulatory structure, but it will be over my dead body."



Diane Abbott claims a committee was misled

Villa windfall

EYEBROWS were raised this week when an elderly lady walked into the Birmingham offices of Albert E Sharp. The kind brokers gave her a seat and offered her a cup of tea. "Are these worth anything?" she said, waving a handful of Aston Villa share certificates gingerly in the air. The dear old lady, I am told, walked out £1.3 million richer, and a little less stooped.

Imro bonuses

IMRO, the financial regulator, was totting up sweeteners yesterday, but these ones were to be distributed among its own staff. They are said to be leaving in their droves because of uncertainty over the future of the regulatory structure. Desperate to hold onto staff, the one-off bonuses were calculated at 30 per cent of the total annual pay roll. Only 24 hours after the regulator for fund managers slapped a £2 million fine on Morgan Grenfell, Imro has managed to match that figure with its own bonuses.

THE RSPCA was called to Broadgate Arena yesterday. No, not to wrestle with those bears at Lekman Brothers but to weed out two ducks and their family from their home in the Square Mile.

Back-pedalling

JOHN COLEMAN, chief executive at House of Fraser, was worried that he might be dubbed the new Gerald Ratner. Explaining yesterday that the group still hadn't received delivery of some of the large amounts of slow-selling stock that Fraser is having to discount at one fifth of the expected price, he was asked whether the group had contracted to buy rubbish. "Essentially, yes," he said, then started back-pedalling. "The product was bought with the best of intentions. It is just inappropriate for our selling strategy."

Great Turner

TIME BOOKS is publishing a grandly titled hardback, *Greatest Personalities of the 20th Century*, with six portraits on the cover including Martin Luther King, Amelia Earhart, Albert Einstein and, er, Ted Turner. Not so unrealistic when you remember that Time Books is part of the Time-Warner empire of which he is the principal shareholder.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Why Blair and Major say 'wait and see' on the euro

Both leaders would join EMU if it seemed politically expedient

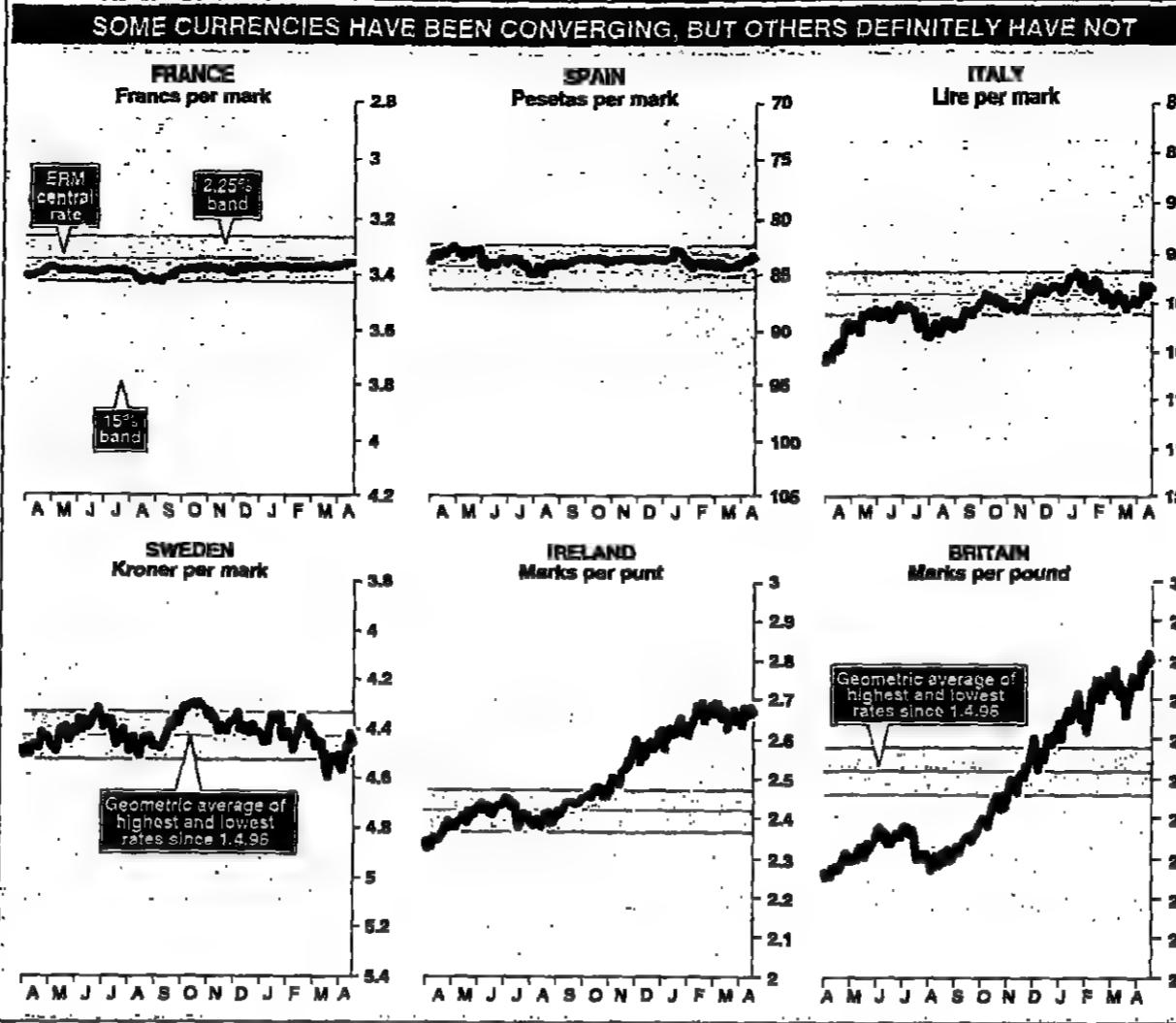
The point of no return in this election campaign was reached on Wednesday when John Major was forced to acknowledge publicly that he could no longer lead his party on Europe. In deciding to make his bizarre appeal to the country over the heads of his own backbenchers and ministers, Mr Major was effectively admitting defeat in the election; he could never again command a majority in Parliament. But the tragic inevitability of the Tory defeat on May 1 is hardly worth writing about. What is more interesting about Mr Major's final humiliation is its unexpected impact on Britain's relationship with Europe.

Strange as it may seem, the main consequence of Europe finally emerging as a central issue in this vapid election campaign will be to make Britain's membership of the single currency in 1999 something more likely. In saying this, I am not actually predicting that Britain will join. The odds are still stacked against Britain joining, since the public remains viscerally opposed and even some businessmen are beginning to understand the economic arguments in favour of floating exchange rates (those who still don't should read Anthony Harris's brilliantly succinct exposition on this page last Wednesday). The point is, however, that the chances of Britain being dragged into monetary union by the next government are now a good deal higher than the zero probability assigned to this event, for example, by a Reuters survey of bankers yesterday — or, more importantly, by the spin-doctors who claim to know the "true instincts" of John Major and Tony Blair.

There is only one rational explanation for Mr Major's insistence that Britain must keep open the option to join EMU — whatever the political costs to the Tories and to himself. The Prime Minister must genuinely believe that a strong case could soon emerge for Britain to opt into EMU.

The alternative tactical explanations simply will not wash. It is said, for example, that Mr Major had to reinforce the EMU option because otherwise Kenneth Clarke would have resigned, but two weeks before the election this is beyond belief. Equally implausible was Mr Major's own tactical explanation. To rule out the single currency, he said, would be to "send the British Prime Minister naked into the conference chamber with nothing to negotiate".

This statement is quite simply false. First there is nothing to be negotiated. All the main parameters of EMU — the



anti-democratic constitution of the European Central Bank, the narrow definition of its objectives and the economically illiterate convergence criteria — were agreed five years ago in Maastricht by Mr Major himself. All that remains to be settled are the countries to be admitted to EMU, the name of the ECB's president and the precise operating procedures for the conduct of monetary policy.

On the first of these issues,

Britain would retain its vote even if the Government formally declared today that it had no intention of joining EMU. Indeed that is precisely what the Danish Government did last year. As for decisions on the detailed operations of the central bank and its senior appointments, these will only be taken by the countries that join EMU after they join. To have any influence on the ECB, therefore, Britain would have to adopt the single currency. No additional influence would be achieved merely by keeping the option open.

Why then does Mr Major insist on his "wait and see" position? And why does Mr Blair agree? It must be because they want the freedom actually to join EMU in 1999 if this seems expedient.

The trouble is that everything in both Mr Major's and Mr Blair's records suggests that the decision on EMU — if the option to join remains open — will be taken on the basis of short-term political expediency rather than on the constitutional and economic principles underlying this gigantic experiment.

This brings us to the man who will actually take the decision — Tony Blair. Like Mr Major, the Labour leader has insisted on keeping his options

open, while trying to appear Eurosceptics — in his case, with a mantra about "formidable obstacles to Britain joining in 1999". Mr Blair's minders have hinted strongly that in fact insurmountable. Effectively, they say, there is no prospect of Labour joining the single currency in 1999. But like Mr Major's strange remark about muddy in the negotiations chambers, Labour's claim about formidable obstacles is simply untrue.

In terms of the Maastricht criteria, Britain will easily pass muster on the main tests — the ratio of public borrowing to GDP will both be lower than Germany's, while the public debt, the rate of inflation and the level of long-term interest rates will all be comfortably within the Maastricht limits. There is, in fact, only one formal obstacle to Britain joining the single currency in 1999. This obstacle — the instability of sterling — is hugely important from a business and economic standpoint, but is rather puny from a legalistic point of view.

In theory, Maastricht requires the currency of any country applying to join EMU to "respect the normal fluctuation margins provided by the exchange-rate mechanism without severe tensions for at least the last two years before the examination". If this requirement were taken literally, British membership in 1999 would be ruled out, since sterling is not even in the ERM.

It seems increasingly likely, however, that this condition will be interpreted to admit countries whose currencies have fluctuated within a narrow enough range, even if they were not formally within the

ERM. The question then is what the "normal fluctuation margins" mean. If the 2.25 per cent margins that existed until August 1993 were treated as "normal", Britain would not have the slightest chance of qualifying (see chart). But in that case Italy, Ireland and Sweden would also be unable to qualify.

If, on the other hand, the present "temporary" margins of 15 per cent were taken as normal, every Eurozone country would easily qualify on this "convergence criterion". In practice, a liberal interpretation is too likely — especially if a British government anxious to join EMU were voting along with Ireland and Italy. Maybe this is what Messrs Major and Blair both mean by retaining their freedom to negotiate.

In practice it seems, then,

that Mr Blair's "formidable obstacles" to EMU do not exist. The obstacles that do exist are either matters of principle and national interest — on which neither of the main party leaders seems to have any view — or issues of parliamentary tactics. In British politics, of course, there will be big obstacles to joining EMU. But they look a lot less daunting today than they did a week ago.

Mr Major's amazing offer yesterday of a free vote in Parliament if he were re-elected would transform the practical politics in favour of EMU in the unlikely event of the Tories being returned to power. For in a free vote the Tory Eurosceptics could almost certainly be overwhelmed by a coalition of pro-Europeans from all parties — as they were in 1972.

More importantly, the utter confusion in the Tory camp has taken all pressure off Mr Blair to move in a more sceptical direction or even to clarify his

position on Europe. A free vote would also enable him to allow members of the Cabinet to follow personal convictions.

This leaves both parties' pledge of a referendum as the one insuperable obstacle to Britain joining the single currency. But experience suggests that if the Government makes a decision on a complex economic issue and then wins the backing of prominent business interests, the voters can easily be swayed. Would people really reject in a referendum a policy that would lower their mortgage rates overnight by two or three percentage points? Would they heed the sceptical minority of economists who warned that such a monetary union would lead to higher inflation and a balance of payments crisis?

Wouldn't they believe instead that inflation and trade problems were now impossible, since Britain's money would be in the capable hands of a

surrogate Bundesbank?

BUSINESS LETTERS

Britain needs pension compulsion and affordable second-tier schemes

From the Chairman,

Unity Trust Bank

Sir, it is hard to disagree with Graham Seear's analysis (April 10) of Britain's acute pensions problem. However, market forces will not deliver the increased provision needed. While it is obvious that pensions, like insurance, need to be sold, we have seen the danger of mis-selling. Some form of political leadership — and fresh political thinking — is what we really require to tackle falling living standards in retirement.

The UK has accumulated a stock of private pensions assets totalling over 70 per cent of GDP. The challenge is to enable everyone to participate in the success story.

Without compulsion and the development of affordable second-tier pensions for all, many lower-paid people will continue to face an uncertain future as they will not earn sufficient income to contribute to private schemes at market rates.

Likewise, Labour thinkers have highlighted the need for compulsion, but the party has not followed their lead. We can be encouraged

New law is harming retirement provision

From Mr R. Waddingham

Sir, the "anti-Maxwell" pensions legislation, the Pensions Act 1995, came into effect on April 6. Unfortunately, it has little to do with encouraging company pension schemes. This further pension regulation has had the opposite effect.

The Government boasts of the solid pension provision in this country. Pension funds here exceed £50 billion — more than the rest of Europe put together. Ironically, politicians have not recognised that this position is threatened by their interventionist legislation. As a consulting actuary, I have never been busier than now — but unfortunately on the wrong sort of work. It is sad to see employers cutting back on pension provision. The Government has yet to appreciate the damage done

by recent "reforms". The rot began when employees were given the right to opt out of good company pension schemes.

The Government misunderstood the effect of the introduction of personal pensions (in spite of advice at the time), and refuses to accept blame for the losses that followed. The Pensions Act 1995 makes it harder and more expensive to run good schemes. Even if politicians now realise the damage done by recent legislation, it will be a huge task to persuade new employers to provide good pension provision for employees.

Yours faithfully,

R.A.J. WADDINGTON,
Barnet Waddingham
(Consulting Actuaries),
Chalfont Hall,
Chalfont St Peter,
Buckinghamshire.

Millions will be victims of a windfall tax

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky (April 15) suggests that the real victims of the windfall tax will be the speculators who bought utility shares during the period of takeover and dividend fever earlier this decade. Whilst I would not wish to comment on whether or not the windfall tax is a sensible proposal, I believe Mr Kaletsky's comments are disingenuous.

The windfall tax may or may not be a justifiable way of raising £5 billion to tackle long-term unemployment in the UK, but it is disingenuous to suggest that it has only a limited number of victims.

Yours faithfully,

M. C. FITZPATRICK,
Head of Economics,
Chantrey Vellacott,
Russell House,
10-12 Russell Square, WC1.

Morag Preston on an even longer smoking campaign

Tobacco duo plots 241 challenge

JC Cunningham and Sten Bertelsen, the enfant terrible of the tobacco industry, are already plotting their next move.

Yesterday's European Court ruling against their Enlightened Tobacco Company (ETC), which has left them facing a £700,000 bill for costs, has been quickly shrugged off.

Their next assault on Customs & Excise will be the launch of an extra long cigarette cutely called the 241.

Unlike the average cigarette, the filter is in the middle so that, snapped in half, it can be shared. The selling point is that at 100mm in length they are a quarter longer than standard-sized cigarettes.

In theory, smokers will pay no more tax than they would for a packet of 20 standard cigarettes, yet end up with 40. The cigarettes are available in The Netherlands but Customs & Excise have already opposed their United Kingdom launch. ETC is the company behind

independent manufacturer of tobacco in Europe, has a 25 per cent stake in ETC and is Cunningham's partner in the project. He made Death cigarettes, and retains the right to sell them in Germany and the Benelux countries.

Bertelsen is married to the socialist PR, Susannah Constantine, and is the son of the Scandinavian fashion magnate, Peder Bertelsen.

Cunningham is also active in the music industry, managing two bands that are about to launch their first single — *Carpet Burn* by Salamanda, and *Blow* by Libido.

For his part, Bertelsen, 32, is looking to import Cuban cigars into the UK. His plan is to break Hunters & Frankau's monopoly of the market.

Bertelsen is married to the socialist PR, Susannah Constantine, and is the son of the Scandinavian fashion magnate, Peder Bertelsen.

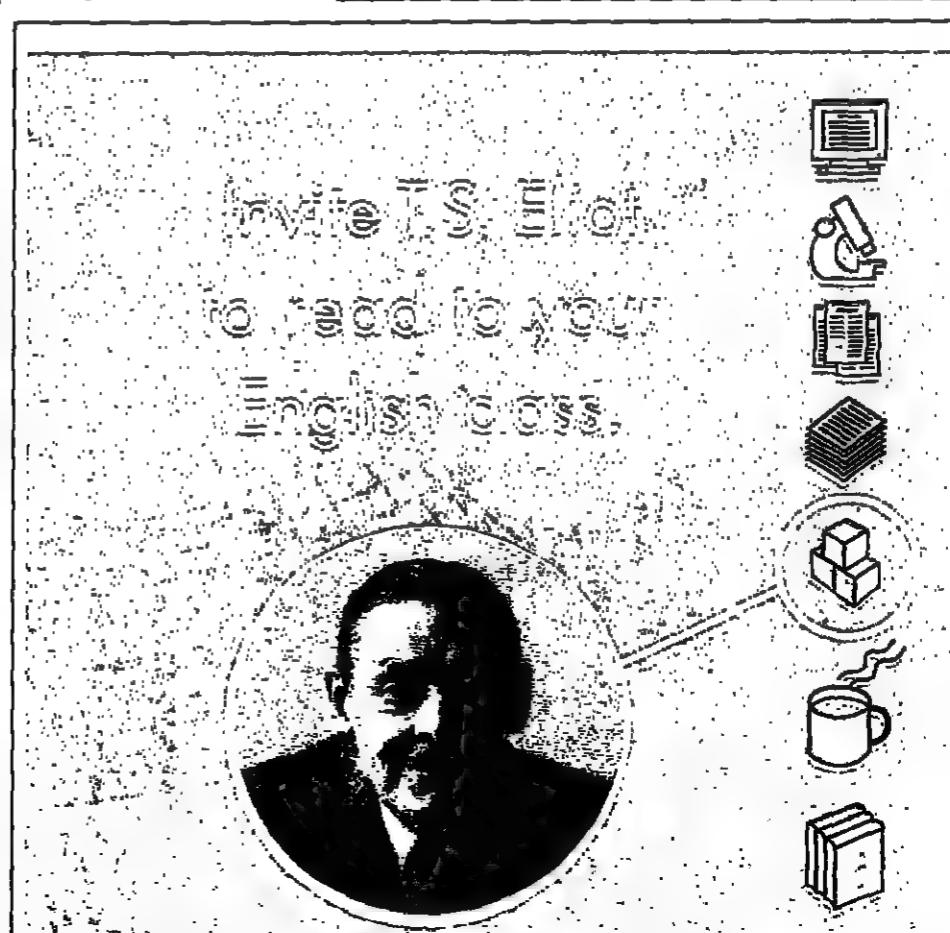
Cunningham is also active in the music industry, managing two bands that are about to launch their first single — *Carpet Burn* by Salamanda, and *Blow* by Libido.

Alfonz Ravelli, the largest



DEATH

plans to contest it. He said: "Two units doesn't mean that it's two cigarettes. Even with an ordinary cigarette you might put it out... then pick it up later and start smoking it again."



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32 EQUITY PRICES

Gilts higher, equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Yld	% PE
100%	99%	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	400	+ 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Brown-Forman	300	- 1	6.2	16.6
100%	99%	Diageo	400	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Heublein	100	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Hiram Walker	65	+ 4	4.0	16.1
100%	99%	Kellogg	500	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Marlboro	500	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Molson	100	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Nestle	100	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Philip Morris	500	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Seagram	100	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Stroh	100	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Tobacco	100	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Winston	100	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Woolworth	100	- 1	5.2	16.6
100%	99%	Yardley	100	- 1	5.2	16.6

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Yld	% PE
100%	99%	ABN-Amro	400	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Barclays	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	BNP Paribas	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Citibank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Deutsche Bank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	HSBC	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Lehman Brothers	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	NatWest	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Salomon Brothers	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Santander	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Standard Chartered	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Swiss Bank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	UBS	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Wachovia	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Westpac	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Woolworths	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Yardley	300	- 1	5.2	24.6

BREWERY'S PUBS & RESTAURANTS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Yld	% PE
100%	99%	ABN-Amro	400	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Barclays	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	BNP Paribas	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Citibank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Deutsche Bank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	HSBC	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Lehman Brothers	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
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100%	99%	UBS	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Wachovia	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Westpac	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Yardley	300	- 1	5.2	24.6

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Yld	% PE
100%	99%	ABN-Amro	400	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Barclays	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	BNP Paribas	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Citibank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Deutsche Bank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	HSBC	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Lehman Brothers	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
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100%	99%	Standard Chartered	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Swiss Bank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	UBS	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Westpac	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Yardley	300	- 1	5.2	24.6

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Yld	% PE
100%	99%	ABN-Amro	400	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Barclays	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	BNP Paribas	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Citibank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Deutsche Bank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	HSBC	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
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100%	99%	Swiss Bank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	UBS	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Westpac	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Yardley	300	- 1	5.2	24.6

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	Yld	% PE
100%	99%	ABN-Amro	400	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Barclays	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	BNP Paribas	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Citibank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Deutsche Bank	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
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100%	99%	Santander	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
100%	99%	Standard Chartered	300	- 1	5.2	24.6
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■ BOOKS

The teenagers are coming young, highly marketable novelists find publishers fighting over them



■ MUSIC 1

Rare Handel: the late oratorio *Alexander Balus* proves to be well worth the occasional outing



■ MUSIC 2

Veteran meets newcomers: Lord Menuhin adds a vintage touch to a celebration of young quartets



■ TOMORROW

Can Gary Wilmot add contemporary fizz to *The Goodbye Girl*? Read Benedict Nightingale's view

LITERATURE: Authors are starting young — but can they write? Nicolette Jones reports



Take three girls with books in print: from left, Bidisha (who eschews a surname), Clare Naylor and Jenn Crowell, who wrote their first novels aged 16, 23 and 17 respectively

The bookshop baby boom

These days it seems you are never too young to be writing fiction for adults. A novel is to come out from Flamingo in May that was commissioned when the author was 16. *Seashores* by Bidisha (surname: Bandyopadhyay but, like Madonna, she eschews it) is the story of a schoolgirl interested in relationships with older men. In June, Hodder will publish *Necessary Madness*, a tale of a mother grieving for the loss of a husband and struggling to bring up a child alone; it was written when the (American) author, Jenn Crowell, was 17.

Meanwhile Suzanne Baboneau, an editor at Pan Macmillan, waits patiently for her author, student Vanessa Walters, to finish her first-year exams before being allowed to see the already-written manuscript of Vanessa's second novel: her first, *Rude Girls*, a streetwise tale of three black girls about town, was published a year ago, and bought when the author was 17 (it sold well, aided by WH Smith's Fresh Talent promotion).

This is not to mention a busload of current novels by raddled old veterans of 23 or 24. Many have produced "frustrusters", written in voices invariably described as

"fresh", "fun" and "sexy". Among these is Clare Naylor's *Love: A User's Guide* published last month, the story of a young *Vogue* fashion assistant who has an affair with the heart-throb hero of her fantasies — a novel for anyone who ever thought "If I could only meet Rufus Sewell/Colin Firth/Ralph Fiennes..." It was written when Naylor was 23. And this month Chris Manby's *Flatmates* is published, which recounts the adventures of three girls who share a flat in Balsham, south London. The author, writing at the ripe old age of 24, had her first short story published in *Just Seventeen* when she was just 14.

Writing a novel is even becoming something of a student fad. Brad Metzler, an American law graduate whose novel *The Tenth Justice* (Hodder) came out in March, has said law school was full of people who had written novels. Londoner Courtney Newland, 23, has his street-wise story, set on an estate like the one he grew up on, published by Abacus this month; his literary career saved him from the life of crime he writes about.

It is easy to assume that these proliferating novels are juvenilia of little literary merit.

But it is worth remembering that, for instance, Mary Shelley wrote *Frankenstein* when she was 19, that Jane Austen wrote *Sense and Sensibility* when she was 23, and that many now distinguished authors began their literary careers early.

Susan Hill recalls newspaper headlines along the lines of "Schoolgirl Writes About Sex" which, besides photographs of her in school uniform, trumpeted her debut. She was 18 when *The Enclosure* was published. Margaret Drabble wrote her first novel, *A Summer Birdcage*, when she was 23. Martin Amis was the same age when *The Rachel Papers* came out. It is possible that the new generation of young writers are prodigies on the threshold of a lifetime's commitment to their craft.

On the other hand, it is also possible that they are primarily marketing opportunities. Everyone in fiction publishing acknowledges that it is easier to arouse media attention for writers who are surprisingly

or at least attractively young. Naylor, who was inspired to pen her debut novel by the experience of working for a publisher, remembers how "editors eyes lit up" when the magic epithet "twenty-something" applied to an author. Naylor: realising what few aspiring writers do: that rather than waiting until you have perfected your skill, it is better to get a foot in the door as young as possible. Publishers will then "build" you. In ten years' time, if all goes according to plan, you will be a "name".

Carolyn Mays at Hodder, editor of both Naylor and Crowell, says: "I don't know anyone who wouldn't publish a good book because there was nothing to say about the author. But the sad truth is that it gets harder every day to publish fiction. If there is an added lever that is going to help a book's chances, publishers are glad to use it."

But she insists that there is no point in hyping a book beyond its merit. You cannot decide to make otherwise talkless pretty kids into stars as you can with pop music. If the raw material is so bad that it would have to be rewritten by an editor, it would never be bought. "Ghostwriting is much more likely to happen with big names than with young faces."

First novels and young authors bring the advantage that the publisher can "invent" the writer for the market, as Philip Wynne-Jones, Bidisha's editor, explains. Once a writer has been published, publishers have to take account of the reaction of reviewers, readers and booksellers. They don't have a blank sheet to draw on any more.

What about the effect on the writers? Is it good for them to be so young? Will the initial burst of confidence be replaced by early burn-out?

Harriet Castor wrote her first book — for children — when she was 12 (*Fatpaws and Friends*, still in print now), went on to write a second *Purples book* when she was in the sixth form and another at university, and has now written about 20 books for children. She reflects: "I did open doors. And I was very lucky to miss out on the horrible agonising rejection that most first authors experience. But it is also intimidating to be given the chance to fulfil your ambition straight away. If it doesn't work, you are left thinking, 'If I can't do this, where have my dreams gone?'

Hill believes that it is important, after the first flush of

celebrity, for these young writers to disappear for a while, to be ignored — which she thinks is almost inevitable, as other newcomers take their place. "Then they will find out if they really want to be writers." It will also allow them to mature into their own voice — "at the beginning, you are inevitably trying on other people's".

Bidisha's capacity to try on different voices was partly what convinced Wynne-Jones that she was destined to be a "real" writer. The first draft of her incomplete manuscript was hip and sassy, in the high-octane style of the youth magazines she contributed to — *NME* and *Dazed and Confused*. Her second draft was more measured, arch, Edwardian (written while studying English at Oxford). The third and final draft, he says, was the richest in prose, inventive with language and metaphor. The learning process was visible in the making of the first book, but the versatility convinces her editor that Bidisha will stick with it.

Crowell, too, seems to be a writer who will not be deterred. "She looks about 15, but when she speaks she sounds like a writer," says Carolyn

Mays. "I am interested in the concept of persons," says Crowell, explaining the extraordinary success of characters whose experience she has not shared, and insisting that she would always have written... whatever... happened to her.

Naylor, who began by trying to write a serious literary novel and "bored herself", recognises that she may have set limits for her writing career. If one day she wished to turn herself into a heavyweight, "I'm not sure how easy the transition would be". Castor is now 26, and next February her first adult novel, *The Firebird*, will be published. She admits it is in many ways like "starting again". But at least she didn't have to fight to be noticed.

Hill adds that, especially for women, it is no bad thing to start young. "It is a good idea to get established before you have children," she says. Aspirant novelists over 30 who are now thoroughly depressed may care to note Mays's footnote: "If you write a novel in middle age, it is better to put it, and the next two, into the bottom drawer and bring them out when you're 70." Decrepitude, too, can be a saving point.

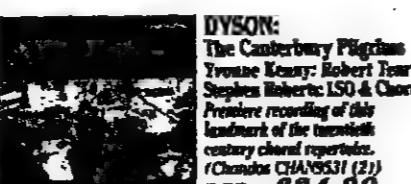
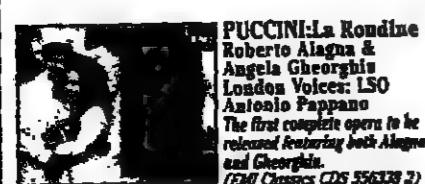
AFTER a week in which 23 young string quartets from 16 countries were put through their paces in the seventh London International String Quartet Competition, the Auer Quartet from Hungary walked away with not only the First Prize but also the Sidney Griller Award for the best performance of the competition's specially commissioned new work by Nicola Lefanu, and the Audience Prize to boot.

The Auer's leader, Gábor Sipos, plays with sophistication and discernment; yet he is always eager to push his colleagues as far as they can go. The sinewy part-writing at the heart of the second movement meant that, at the return of its sombre opening, a real journey had been undergone. Yet there was stamina to spare for the finale, a vortex of white-hot energy.

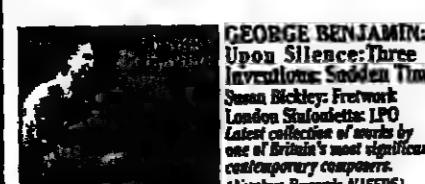
Other prizewinners — in an evening framed by Yehudi Menuhin conducting an orchestra of massed string quartets in Bartók and Elgar, and by the inappropriately Ruritanian fanfaring of the Band of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (why?) — included the Castagnetti Quartet from France, the Belcea (UK) and the Lipatti (Romania).

HILARY FINCH

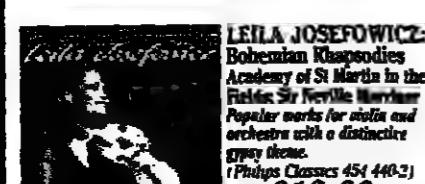
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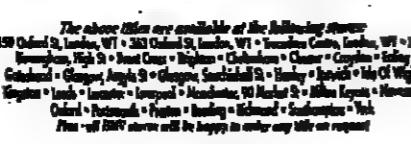
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Wrestlers in golden trainers

DANCE

Jonathan Burrows
The Place

THE whiff of a choreographer's clever trickery lurks in the printed programme for *Quinter*, which lists just four dancers. But on stage it immediately becomes clear that Jonathan Burrows's new piece contains a cast of five. Henry Mones doesn't dance (although normally he is one of Burrows's dancers), but he does speak. He also weaves about a coat-stand construction of four tubular bells and plays limp minimalist clusters of chimes set by the composer Tom Johnson.

Quinter is only 15 minutes long and it gleams like gold. It reveals the choreographer's ability to renew himself and avoid familiar formulae. Burrows has returned from the success of his first creation for William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet with a new-found, knowing take on ballet. It suggests the influence of Forsythe's own deconstructed ballet classicism, although as always Burrows never merely rests on outside ideas, but digests them into his style.

He has, in the past, perplexed us with assertions that his work is rooted in ballet — even *The Stop Quartet* with its flat-footed, clanking steps, its arms slicing like broken-sail windmills, its abrupt animal crouches. But here *Quinter* delivers ballet that even the layman can grasp, although being contemporary

they are directing their feet into balleric fifth position, the effect deliberately blunted by their lumpy trainer shoes. Then they split from their unison line into couples, grapple like wrestlers, or tilt into the extreme shapes of a Forsythian *pas de deux*.

The detached perspective is noticeable because of Henry Mones's questions between silence and the chiming.

"Do the dancers move differently in the silence?" he asks. And you think, yes — or

perhaps they only seem to.

Burrows is interested in

autonomous layers of activity

which by their simple parallel

existence produce an impres-

sion of interaction. That is an

important aspect of *The Stop*

Quartet which opened the

programme. This piece has

not worn thin with repeated

viewings. It is so intriguing, so

consummately structured that

it grips your attention and

doesn't let go.

NADINE MEISNER

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1997



THEATRE 1
The evolution of elocution:
vocal coach
Patsy Rodenburg
reveals the
secrets of her art



THEATRE 2
The Herbal Bed, Peter Whelan's fantasie on Shakespearean matters, comes into the West End

THE ARTS



CHOICE 1
Master Class: Patti LuPone plays Maria Callas in the West End
VENUE: Previews begin tonight, Queen's Theatre



CHOICE 2
Sting in the tale:
Iain Banks's novel,
The Wasp Factory,
previews in Leeds
VENUE: Tonight at the
West Yorkshire Playhouse

THEATRE: Kenneth Rea on the task of teaching even the greatest how to speak. Plus review

Talking shop with actors

Ever since Shakespeare, in the guise of Hamlet, advised his players to speak the speech "trippingly off the tongue", British actors have been celebrated the world over for their vocal clarity. But many of our greatest actors are allowed to slide into such mannered self-indulgence that they become almost parodies of their former selves. What was once bravura acting degenerates into plain over-the-top. Maggie Smith's applause-hungry Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest* springs to mind, along with most of the recent output of Alan Howard and Vanessa Redgrave.

Even Paul Scofield's award-winning performance in the National's *John Gabriel Borkman* was, towards the end of its run, remarkable for its operatic bombast. So magnificent is Scofield's voice that it is now in danger of being incapable of sounding natural: syllables were parcelled out, words were modulated, sculpted and launched into the auditorium like skyrockets. Yet all of these actors can still deliver taut, disciplined performances under the right circumstances.

What is going wrong? Egotism and a reluctance to shift are not the best deal by deference. Nor is the problem helped by cavernous theatres with dead acoustics such as the Olivier.

The buck may stop with the director, but the person who is often expected to sort out the mess is the voice coach. Patsy Rodenburg, head of voice at both the Royal National Theatre and Guildhall School of Music and Drama, believes the trouble stems from actors not listening to other actors on stage.

"All the famous actors who seem to be stuck are not reachable," she says. "The other actors will say that they won't look at them, they won't listen. They've decided on their performance and they're listening to themselves. As soon as you start to believe that your voice or the way you're speaking is fantastically interesting, you're going to sound mannered."

Rodenburg, who has worked with

most of our leading directors, has a new book out this week, *The Actor Speaks*, which expands her view that the foundation of good acting is respect for the text.

"A lot of directors are much more interested in design," she says. "It's very disheartening for an actor when a director comes in and starts to say: 'This is how it's going to look.' I honestly think that a lot of directors will avoid working on the text because they don't know much about it."

Matthew Warchus, who coaxed surprisingly unmanured performances from Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay in *Art*, told his cast on the first day of rehearsal that this was not to be a series of star turns. Warchus recalls: "I'd keep saying: 'You've got something as if it's inverted commas. Try to lose the inverted commas.'

He says: "famous actors are not challenged enough to give fresh performances." Producers may say, "What we need for this is Maggie Smith." What they mean is, Maggie Smith doing something they've seen her do before. And that's not fair to Maggie Smith.

Peter Hall, the arch-champion of vocal precision, affirms that mannerisms are the result of not knowing meaning. "Equally, directors become useless when they don't challenge and seek out meaning," he says. "Bad Shakespearean speech can be absolutely correct for its form but not have meaning. I would never say that if you speak Shakespeare well you will act it well. But you never see Shakespeare well acted unless it's also well spoken."

Hall's solution is to be specific in rehearsal and keep a regular eye on the play during its run. "If you just keep running it and saying, 'Oh, how lovely, darling, you're going to end up with an empty production in which the actors will resort to whatever fireworks they possess to keep the interest.'

• *The Actor Speaks* by Patsy Rodenburg is published by Methuen (£14.99). She is giving a platform performance Words of Madness, with actors from King Lear at the Colisseum Theatre, April 30 and May 7.



Speaking volumes: Patsy Rodenburg in a training session at the NT with the actors Martin Chamberlain (left) and Nicholas Bailey

Plot to catch the conscience

The Herbal Bed Duchess

(ie. having the clap) and conducting an affair with a haberdasher called Rafe Smith. She was cleared after her accuser failed to appear at a church court in Worcester. But could Susanna, resented wife of the great Dr Hall, have been guilty?

Whelan's answer is no and yes. Had not the maid blundered, Fydeley-style, into the herb garden, those parts of Teresa Banham's Susanna that found Hall emotionally insufficient might have suc-

cumbed to those parts of Richard Hawley's Smith that could not stop himself wronging his friend and neighbour. But again and again Whelan refuses to deal in blacks and whites. Again and again he calls to mind Shakespeare's dictum that people consist "of mingled yarn, good and ill together".

practices may be imperilled. Are these justified when they result in the excommunication and destruction of a young man who, as Barnaby Kay plays Jack, is foolish and slovenly, but not really bad?

Kay makes an effective addition to Michael Attarborough's cast, as do Lorraine Crani's brooding Hall and Richard Hawley's lovelorn haberdasher. But Banham's Susanna is still too much the blithely intelligent wife, too little the frustrated, passionate woman.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Susanna rescues herself, Smith and, above all, her husband's good name by doing what her father did so well. She constructs a clever story and gets even those who know it is untrue to buy it. This brings a wonderfully tense encounter with Stephen Boxer's icy inquisitor in Worcester Cathedral. More importantly, it asks us how far we can and should accept the evasions, fibs and fixes without which everything from marriages to medical

practices may be imperilled. Are these justified when they result in the excommunication and destruction of a young man who, as Barnaby Kay plays Jack, is foolish and slovenly, but not really bad?

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BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THE Royal Shakespeare Company may have left the Barbican, not to return until the leaves have turned brown, but at least it has left us a memento in the West End. A very fine piece it is, too. Peter Whelan's speculative addition to the Shakespeare files has not been spoilt by the recasting of several roles and actually seems subtler, morally more demanding, you might say more Shakespearean, than it did in EC2.

Three years before the Bard's death, his daughter Susanna sued one Jack Lane for slander after he accused her of "runing at the raynes"

of having the clap) and

conducting an affair with a

haberdasher called

Rafe Smith. She was cleared after her accuser failed to appear at a church court in Worcester. But could Susanna, resented wife of the great Dr Hall, have been guilty?

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William Packer, Financial Times

29 March 1997.

"Mrs Newcomb is remarkable for her seemingly easy command of technical effect and effortless pictorial invention. How simple it all looks, and yet how aware the formal abstract composition; systematic; how radical the composition; how daring the use of colour. At 75, she retains all the fresh, innocent delight as much in the discoveries and surprises of her art as of the natural and visible world. Sadly it is wrong that a painter of such explosive refinement and sensibility should not have won at least something more in way of public recognition."

Andrew Lambirth,

The Spectator 22 March.

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ITEMS

ITEM

Phobia caused incompetence

In re M B (Caesarian section)
Before Lord Justice Butter-Sloss, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Ward
(Judgment March 26)

A woman who needed and desired to have a Caesarian section but whose fear of needles caused her to panic in the operating theatre and refuse to have the anaesthetic and undergo the operation was, at the moment of panic, suffering from a mental impairment which made her temporarily incompetent and, as the Caesarian section was in her best interests, it was appropriate for the court to order that it would be lawful for doctors to operate on her without her consent.

The Court of Appeal, so held in giving reasons for dismissing on February 26 an appeal by the woman against a decision of Mr Justice Hollis to grant a declaration that it would be lawful for the operation to take place.

Mr Robert Francis, QC, for the woman; Mr John Grace, QC, for the hospital; Mr Michael Hinckfus as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE BUTTER-SLOSS, giving the judgment of the court, said that in general it was a criminal and tortious assault to perform physically invasive medical treatment, however minimal the invasion might be, without the patient's consent.

A mentally competent patient has an absolute right to refuse consent to medical treatment for any reason, rational or irrational, or for no reason at all even where that decision might lead to his or her death.

Medical treatment could be undertaken in an emergency even if, through lack of capacity, no consent had been competently given, provided the treatment was a necessity and did no more than was reasonably required in the best interests of the patient.

All the recent decisions in Caesarian section cases arise in circumstances of urgency or extreme urgency. The evidence was

in general limited in scope and the mother was not always represented as a party. With one exception the court had decided in all the cases that the mother did not have the capacity to make the decision.

In such extremely worrying situations it was important to keep in mind the basic principles laid down in the authorities and the court should approach the crucial question of competence bearing the following considerations in mind:

1 Every person was presumed to have the capacity to consent to or refuse medical treatment unless and until that presumption was rebutted.

2 A competent woman who had the capacity to decide might, for religious or other reasons whether rational or irrational, or for no reason at all, choose not to have medical intervention even though the consequence might be the death or serious handicap of the child she bore or her own death.

In that event the court did not have jurisdiction to declare medical intervention lawful and the question of her own best interests objectively considered, did not arise.

3 Irrationally committed a decision which was so outrageous in its defiance of logic or of accepted moral standards that no sensible person who had applied his mind to the question to be decided had arrived at it.

Although it might be thought that tritamente it was uneasily with competence to decide, panic, indecisiveness and irrationality in themselves did not as such amount to incapacity, but might be symptoms or evidence of incompetence. The graver the consequences of the decision the commensurately greater the level of competence was required to take the decision.

4 A person lacked capacity if some impairment or disturbance of mental functioning rendered the person unable to make a decision whether to consent to or refuse treatment.

5 Temporary factors such as confusion, shock, fatigue, pain or drugs might completely erode capacity but only if such factors were operating to such a degree that the ability to decide was absent.

6 Another such influence might be panic induced by fear. Again careful scrutiny of the evidence was necessary because fear of an operation might be a rational reason for refusal to undergo it. Fear might also, however, paralyse the will and thus destroy the capacity to make a decision.

Applying those principles to the instant case the court found that the woman was incapable of making a decision at all as she was at the moment of panicking, suffering an impairment of her mental functioning which disabled her and she was temporarily incompetent.

It was clear that the mother and father wanted the child born alive and the woman was in favour of the operation subject only to her needle phobia. On the evidence it had been in her best interests that the operation be performed.

A feature of some of the earlier cases had been the favourable reaction of the patient who had refused treatment to the subsequent medical intervention and the successful outcome.

Having noted that, the court was none the less sure that however desirable it might be for the mother to be delivered of a live and healthy baby, it was not a strictly relevant consideration.

If therefore the competent mother refused to have the medical intervention, doctors might not necessarily do more than attempt to persuade her. If then persuasion was unsuccessful there were no further steps towards medical intervention to be taken.

The effect was that there would be situations in which the child might die or be seriously handicapped because the mother said "No" and the obstetrician was not able to take the necessary steps to avoid the death or handicap. The mother might indeed later regret the outcome but the alternative would be an unwarranted invasion of the right of the woman to make the decision.

The only situation in which it was lawful for doctors to intervene was if it was believed that the adult patient lacked the capacity to decide.

On the present state of the English law the submission that the court should consider and weigh in the balance the rights of the unborn child were untenable.

The only support in Lord Donaldson's observation in *In re T (an Adult) (Consent to medical treatment)* (1993 Fam 98) could not stand against the weight of earlier decisions which were far

more persuasive as to the present state of the law and which were applicable by analogy to the present appeal; see *Paton v British Pregnancy Advisory Service Trustee* [1979] QB 270, C v S [1988] QB 129 and *In re F (In Utero)* [1989] Fam 122.

The focus up to the moment of birth did not have any separate interests capable of being taken into account when a court had to consider an application for a declaration in respect of a Caesarian section operation. The court did not have the jurisdiction to declare that such medical intervention was lawful to protect the interests of the unborn child even at the point of birth.

It might be helpful to make some comment on the practice to be followed when the medical profession felt it necessary to seek declarations from the court.

1 The court was unlikely to entertain an application for a declaration unless the capacity of the patient to consent to or refuse the medical intervention was in issue.

2 For the time being at least the doctor ought to seek a ruling from the High Court on the issue of competence.

3 Those in charge should identify a potential problem as early as possible so that both the hospital and the patient could obtain legal advice.

4 It was highly desirable that in any case which was not an emergency steps should be taken to bring it before the court before it became an emergency. That would remove the extra pressure from the parties and the court and enable proper instructions to be taken, particularly from the patient, and where possible give the opportunity for the court to hear oral evidence.

5 The hearing should be inter partes.

6 The mother should be represented in all cases unless, exceptionally, she did not wish to be. If she was unconscious she should have a guardian ad litem.

7 The Official Solicitor should be notified of all applications to the High Court.

8 There should in general be some evidence, preferably but not necessarily from a psychiatrist, as to the competence of the patient if competence was in issue.

9 Where time permitted, the person identified to give the evidence as to capacity to consent to or refuse treatment should be made aware of the observations in this judgment.

10 In order to be in a position to assess a patient's best interests the judge should be provided, where possible and if time allowed, with information about the circumstances of and relevant background material about the patient.

Solicitors: Le Brasleur J, Tickle & Hampsons; Official Solicitor.

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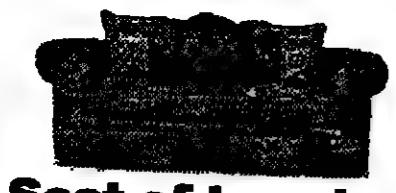
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EDUCATION

You select a school, but will it select your child?

David Charter on a boy who lost out because of changes in the school places system

Sonia Freeman moved house when her son Oliver was three months old to live in the catchment area of the secondary school of her choice. Families living in Bramerton Road, Beckenham, automatically sent their sons to the successful Langley Park School for Boys in the South London borough of Bromley.

Ten years on, however, Oliver found himself turned away. His mother blames the school's move towards partial selection (Oliver did not pass the test) and the clamour for places by children from outside the borough. The school points to the effective disappearance of catchment areas and the high number of applications from siblings this year.

All these reasons, and more, influence the complex challenge of finding a secondary school. The three main political parties have very different views on school admissions but are all grappling with a key problem — that popular schools cannot infinitely expand.

Conservative-controlled Bromley is seen as one version of a blueprint for the nation's education service. Schools in this corner of southeast London have rushed to take up successive government initiatives and become grant-maintained, specialist and, latterly, partially selective.

The Conservative manifesto promises every school more power, with the ultimate aim of full autonomy. There will also be greater freedom to select more pupils.

All but one of Bromley's 17 secondary schools have already opted out of local authority control. Many of these grant-maintained schools joined the specialist schools programme by admitting 10 per cent of pupils on aptitude for languages, arts, sport or technology. Then Hayes School won government approval to select 25 per cent of pupils on academic ability. This prompted all those schools not already testing prospective pupils to select 15 per cent, the maximum allowed without government approval.

Some Bromley parents say that this selection has added another hurdle to entry to their neighbourhood schools, which were already swamped with applications from outside the borough after a High Court ruling in 1990, known as the Greenwich Judgment, said

'It is a bit like the domino theory. If one goes, they all go'

thing with the word selection attached to it is better. It is a bit like the domino theory. If one goes, they all go.'

He said the real problems started with the Greenwich Judgment, a ruling the Liberal Democrats have pledged to overturn. The LibDems also want grant-maintained schools to come back under the control of 'light-touch' local authorities, which would decide whether the schools can keep their admissions policies.

Labour does not plan to challenge the Greenwich Judgment, saying it was felt to be a commonsense ruling.

Under Labour, all grant-maintained schools would become foundation schools, with a portion of their budget returned to the local authority. Every foundation school would have to agree its admissions policy with the authority, and an ombudsman would settle disputes.

Full grammar schools would keep their status, unless a majority of parents from local primary schools voted to change them. The votes would probably need a petition from 20 per cent of parents to be called.

Such was the outcry in



Missing out: Oliver and his mother, Sonia, who blames the school's move to partial selection

Phil Revell reports on a ground-breaking Internet boost for education

Softly, softly school spins a web for parents and students



option that would not be open to many other providers. The software also allows the school to monitor access. If parents are concerned about their children's Internet usage, a record exists of all the sites visited.

"I saw it as supporting the school in a tangible way," he says. "There was also the point that children do not always explain what they have been doing at school. This offered the potential to be more involved in our children's education."

Many parents are concerned about unsavoury ma-

Aymes, an IT co-ordinator, says the Internet is an important learning resource as well as a way of cementing links with parents. Plans include offering Web pages to local companies wanting to market their products and IT classes for adults featuring Internet skills.

As a subscriber, Mr Burgess pays the school £14 a month, which is comparable to fees charged by commercial providers. The family uses the service about three hours a week and telephone charges are significant.

An INITIATIVE by the cable companies could change all that. The companies are offering schools fixed-rate unlimited access. For less than £10 a week, a school can lease a dedicated telephone line. Fallibroome is investigating the possibilities of cable. The school's leased line costs £8,500 a year.

Parents would also welcome the possibilities of cable. Local phone calls between cable subscribers are free and Mr Burgess sees that as "an even bigger advantage".

In the near future it will be possible for Mr Burgess to access his children's records at the school, to get test results or to check their general progress. Passwords would protect the information from unauthorised access. Mr Aymes says: "The technology simply makes it easier to keep parents in contact with their children's schooling."

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CHANGING TIMES

Hilda Brown on an historic step at Oxford

Why St Hilda's needs some men

The last single-sex college in Oxford is poised for an historic step. However, the proposed admittance of male academics as full members of St Hilda's College is not so alarming or radical as supporters of single-sex education might suppose.

Firms pledged to remaining in the unique position of admitting only women as undergraduates, the college is still dedicated to the education of women. The planned move is at senior level only, opening the fellowship to men and women.

As a result of its single-sex status, St Hilda's is left with only four fellows in science. The normal number would be about ten. It has none in key areas of the physical sciences, such as chemistry, where it once had two, and engineering.

To maintain a respectable balance between arts and science subjects, it has been forced to make short-term arrangements, in many cases appointing men as tutors.

The college now has several options. It can continue to make do. It can decide to discontinue offering these subjects, or it can resolve to participate fully in the university's normal joint appointments procedures, thereby gaining access to tenured posts associated with fellowships.

The latter option would provide its undergraduates with the range, continuity and quality of teaching taken for granted in other Oxford colleges, and bring financial benefit from the substantial funding that accompanies such posts.

Such a move will liberate the college from the complex, frustrating and sometimes humiliating manoeuvres with which it has had to grapple since the full implications of equal opportunities legislation hit Oxford in 1992, turning the joint applications system into a lottery for St Hilda's. University appointments have to be open to both sexes and posts allocated to St Hilda's have not yielded a single appointee. Either men were appointed or the successful women opted to take the appointment at another (mixed) college.

As a college with only 100 years of history, St Hilda's, though poor by the standards of very rich colleges, is not at the bottom of Oxford's "poverty league".

Over the past ten years, when it started to worry about the declining prospects of obtaining joint appointments in the natural sciences, the college raised funding for three key posts, thus effectively subsidising university science depart-

ments. This ensured that female academics were appointed. But such a policy cannot be regarded as a practical solution or a desirable long-term aim.

To bring the fellowship up to full strength in the sciences would require at least six appointments at the present going rate of about £1 million a post. But there is a more important point of principle at stake.

To "privatise" all its science teaching, St Hilda's would effectively be withdrawing from full participation in the university of which it is a constituent part. It would also arguably be going against the grain of its own history. The early struggles of women at Oxford were directed towards recognition as full members of the university, and recognition meant participation in the larger body that is the university. These women were not self-consciously trying to preserve their "distinctive identity", which can be just another form of gyno-

Landmarks on the way to recognition included the award of degrees after the First World War, and the achievement of collegiate status in the late 1950s. With the latter came the benefits of participating in the joint appointments system.

With the growth of science and the final phasing out of the pre-war college laboratories, the university set up lecturerships in the science departments. Meanwhile, arts subjects were served by other joint appointments, known as CUF (Common University Fund) lecturerships. Women fellows became eligible for such appointments in the late 1950s.

A period of comparative prosperity, expansion and high academic achievement for the women's colleges followed and it has been described by historians as a golden age.

This came to an end in the 1970s with the move towards co-residential colleges. In bowing to necessity, the St Hilda's fellowship does not see its position in a tragic light, but rather as an opportunity to protect its right to participation, which has long been the college's prime aim.

The college's unique identity will be preserved by the admission of male fellows, and its academic credibility strengthened; we can have confidence in the future. I am sure there will be relief among the friends of the college and even some quiet rejoicing.

● The author is the senior tutor at St Hilda's College, Oxford.

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FLORA LONDON MARATHON



A Davies 5:18:11; J Harris
T Jones 5:18:13; M Turner

More finishers will

Walsh fails drug test

By JOHN GOODBODY

DAVID WALSH, who rode Barton Bank into second place behind Mr Mulligan in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup last month, has been found positive for an amphetamine after a drug test at Huntingdon racecourse on February 27.

Walsh, who denies that he ever took a stimulant, now faces a hearing before the disciplinary committee of the Jockey Club and a possible ban from the sport.

The Jockey Club has suspended two riders since the introduction of random drug tests in 1994. Sean McCarthy, a Flat apprentice, was banned for two months and Darren Salter, a conditional jockey, was stood down for three weeks.

Walsh, 22, attached to Nigel Twiston-Davies's stable, is leading in the conditional riders' championship with 28 winners, having lost his right to claim last November. He has ridden 14 winners for Martin Pipe this term.

NEWBURY

THUNDERER
3.40 Redbridge
4.10 Mr Bergerac
4.40 St Radegund
5.10 Canon Can

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

5.10 DANCING CAVALIER.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.10 SLEEPYTIME (nap), 4.40 Koi Katie.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM		DRAW: 5F-1M STR, HIGH NUMBERS BEST	
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING		SIS	
2.10 BECKHAMPTON NOVICE STAMPER (2-Y-O): 23,818; 5/7 (9 runners)			
61. WIREN PILOT 20 (GB) (Winning Train) H Hancon 9-4-10 P O'Brien 10-11-12		D O'Neill 9-4-10	
CHARTO (on Teach Racing Club) F Chapple-Hyam 9-12-13 J Rad 10-11-12		R P Murphy 9-4-10	
KEMET (Imre M) P Ferrer 9-12-13 R Hughes 10-11-12		K Darley 9-4-10	
NINN'S V (Lily Perry) H Hancon 9-12-13 J Rad 10-11-12		P O'Brien 9-4-10	
O LIMESTONE (2d) (Lester Piggott) C Cheve 9-12-13 R Hughes 10-11-12		R P Murphy 9-4-10	
ROYAL INTERVIEW 24 (GB) (Peppe La) W Mair 9-12-13 R Hughes 10-11-12		K Fallon 9-4-10	
DISTINCTLY LILLY (Hogmantop) 9-12-13 A Pollett 10-11-12		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
BETTING: 4-4 Magno, 5-2 Charto, 10-3 Waken Pilot, 8-1 King Darius, 12-1 Royal Interview, 14-1 Chappo, 15-1 others		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
1996 - DAYLIGHT IN DUBAI 9-0 K Darley (Even) & P Chapple-Hyam 13 run		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
2.40 STROUD GREEN RATED HANDICAP (3-Y-O): 25,601; 11-13 (18 runners)		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
201 (6) 022311. TIS THE WATER 100 (GB) (J Threshfield) R Hancon 9-7-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
202 (12) 23435-6. ENTREPRENEUR 20 (F) (W) (Preston) M Chapman 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
203 (12) 521. MAYFLY 172 (GB) (Al-Makhdum) A Stoute 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
204 (16) 2211. ANATOLIA 183 (GB) (Preston) M Chapman 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
205 (16) 42123. STYLICIDE 200 (GB) (Abdullah) P Gidley 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
206 (7) SHOUMAARA 241 (al-Makhdum) M Stoute 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
207 (7) 04116. PEAKFIRE HOUSE 216 (GB) (Peppe La) W Mair 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
208 (8) 084-1. MAFFIE 24 (GB) (Preston) M Chapman 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
209 (17) 042-102. GOLDEN FROST 237 (GB) (Tee) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
210 (17) 042-103. FARMINGTON VICTORY 159 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
211 (17) 042-104. SWORN 192 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
212 (17) 042-105. THE TWENTY 195 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
213 (17) 042-106. OUR WAY 199 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
214 (17) 042-107. SPOOKY 172 (GB) (P. Fielder) A Foster 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
215 (17) 042-108. DANCE TIME 203 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
216 (17) 042-109. SPOOKY 172 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
BETTING: 7-2 Magno, 6-1 Ardil, 6-1 Stoute, 8-1 Sampson, 10-1 Test The Water, 12-1 Steamer, 15-1 others		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
1996 - THEWEA 8-0 T Quinn (9-11 4M6f 7m)		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
FORM FOCUS			
TEST THE WATER 100 (GB) (J Threshfield) R Hancon 9-7-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
NOBLE DANE 100 (GB) (Al-Makhdum) M Stoute 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
AL-MAKHDUM 100 (GB) (Al-Makhdum) M Stoute 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
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DANCE TIME 203 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
SPOOKY 172 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
BETTING: 7-2 Magno, 6-1 Ardil, 6-1 Stoute, 8-1 Sampson, 10-1 Test The Water, 12-1 Steamer, 15-1 others		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
1996 - DAYLIGHT IN DUBAI 9-0 K Darley (Even) & P Chapple-Hyam 13 run		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
FORM FOCUS			
TEST THE WATER 100 (GB) (J Threshfield) R Hancon 9-7-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
NOBLE DANE 100 (GB) (Al-Makhdum) M Stoute 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
AL-MAKHDUM 100 (GB) (Al-Makhdum) M Stoute 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
STYLICIDE 200 (GB) (Abdullah) P Gidley 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
SHOUMAARA 241 (al-Makhdum) M Stoute 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
PEAKFIRE HOUSE 216 (GB) (Preston) W Mair 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
MAFFIE 24 (GB) (Preston) M Chapman 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
FARMINGTON VICTORY 159 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
SWORN 192 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
THE TWENTY 195 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
DANCE TIME 203 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
SPOOKY 172 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
BETTING: 7-2 Magno, 6-1 Ardil, 6-1 Stoute, 8-1 Sampson, 10-1 Test The Water, 12-1 Steamer, 15-1 others		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
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MAFFIE 24 (GB) (Preston) M Chapman 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	
FARMINGTON VICTORY 159 (GB) (Preston) H Hancon 9-4-10 P Murphy 9-4-10		R Cedeno 9-4-10	

CRICKET

Tendulkar provides acceleration for India

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

INDIA'S pre-match strategy — to post a large first-innings score and put West Indies under pressure on a pitch expected to turn generously — got off to a flat-footed start here after Sachin Tendulkar won the toss and chose to bat in the fifth and final Test match against West Indies.

Pinned down by an attack that was more frugal than menacing, India crawled into three figures in mid-afternoon yesterday, losing Jadeja for a laboured eight, made in 97 minutes, to a catch behind off Ian Bishop, and Sidhu for a more combative 36.

Bishop had bowled without venom until he took Jadeja's wicket, the edge off a forward prod owing more to the batsman's technical deficiencies than the bowler's wiles.

India could have lost both opening batsmen before the total reached 20, but butter-fingered fielding led to escapes for Jadeja and Sidhu. The former was dropped at third slip by Stewart Williams off Walsh when he was on four, the chance so simple that the fielder wore a sheepish look for the next hour.

Sidhu's reprieve was more complex. Bishop putting him down in the gully as the batsman slashed at a wide delivery from Rose, "in the manner of a Sikh warrior maddened by the hot sun."

Rose was the best of the four West Indies quick bowlers, troubling the batsmen with his pace, bounce and movement until Walsh took him off after Sidhu drove him for two fours in an over. The opener, pacing the crease between deliveries, seemed determined to follow Tendulkar's orders to settle down for the day when Walsh got him to nibble at one off stump after lunch.

At the time of his dismissal India were dictating terms for the first time in the match, as Rahul Dravid drove twice through the covers with strokes of silken culture. After

INDIA: First Innings
A.Jadeja c Brown b Bishop 8
S.David not out 20
S.Rose c & b Bishop 28
I.Bishop lbw b Walsh 102
TOTAL (2 wkt) 102
WICKETS: I.Bishop 102
M.Ashraf (INR) Monga, A.Kumble, S.B.Sethi, D.Kumar, A.Kumble, B.V.Prasad, C.Fowler, D.Walsh, S.B.C.Lawson, R.I.C.Holder, T.C.Brown, I.R.Bishop, C.E.L.Ambrose, S.I.Campbell, S.C.Williams, R.C.Singh, B.C.Lawson, C.Hope, J.A.Walsh, Umpires: G.Sharp (England) and E.Micholls (Match referee: P.van der Merwe (South Africa))

Jones, who made an unbeaten half-century, in defiant mood for Cambridge University at Fenner's yesterday

How to play a gentleman's game

BY IVO TENNANT

FENNER'S (final day of three): Derbyshire beat Cambridge University by an innings and 12 runs

RAIN, which has hardly been seen in The Fens this spring, was all that was needed to prevent Derbyshire from beating Cambridge University by an innings yesterday. A start was not possible until just before midday, but the match was still over by lunch. Rob Jones, the one decent student batsman remaining, made an unbeaten half-century, but there was little else of note.

Jones played initially for Cambridge last year as an off spinner. By the end of term he was considered an all-rounder, having made 61 against Warwickshire, then the county champions. Had he found a tailender to stay with him for long yesterday, he would, in all probability, have surpassed that. His driving square of the wicket off Dean and Hayhurst deserved better.

How, the last man, Rob Jones chose not to protect

from the strike, was left to survive the last over before lunch. He pushed the last ball, bowled by Clarke, into short leg's hands and promptly walked. Told that he did not make contact by Ray Julian, the umpire, and Dean Jones, the Derbyshire captain, How assured them that he had, in university cricket, at least, the game is still played properly.

Julian, incidentally, was standing with Mark Benson, who is attempting to find out whether his dodgy knee will allow him to pursue a second career, as an umpire. He is not

yet on the first-class list. Even

for a well-educated former county captain who played for England, there are no certainties.

So what will Derbyshire have gleaned from this, their first match of a season in which they are expected to challenge again for the county championship? It would be too trite to say not a lot, although the manner of their victory might suggest that.

For one thing, they have

found that Clarke has yet

to become a county cricketer,

even at the third attempt.

He can hit the ball cleanly and bowls his leg breaks and googlies with some accuracy.

The hope is that he will prove

consistent enough to go in at No 6.

For another, they have seen

that Dean is an improved

bowler for having put on a

stone during his winter of club

cricket in Perth. He has a part

to play this season, not least

when Cork is with England.

As for the result, that carries

little relevance to what lies ahead.

Lloyd runs into form in fine style

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PROFESSIONAL cricket in England is often accused of lacking character, but the match starting at Edgbaston today will not want for a steady edge.

The meeting of England A and The Rest — a scratch team that replaced the champion county's batsmen appear to be getting into their stride. It was Graham Lloyd's turn yesterday, as the 27-year-old Lancashire man plundered 225 off just 151 balls to post the highest first-class score of the summer — or at least the spring — so far. More to the point, he guided Lancashire to a 193-run lead over their perennial rivals in the process.

Lloyd struck ten sixes and 25 fours in the course of his assault on the Yorkshire bowling and helped to set a handful of records in the process. His partnership of 249 from 31 overs with Ian Austin was the best for Lancashire's seventh wicket, beating the 245 by A.H.Hornby and J.Sharp against Leicestershire at Old Trafford in 1912, and was thus the highest for that wicket at Yorkshire's expense, surpassing the 220 by John Murray and Don Bennett for Middlesex at Headingly in 1964. In addition, the Lancashire total of 482 now stands as a record for them in Yorkshire, overtaking the 450 compiled on the same ground in 1948.

The younger Holfiske spent a highly successful winter with England Under-19 in Pakistan, while Such was, in any case, a member of the England A touring team. The only other England A player not on show is Owain Shah, who is studying for exams.

The match will also be a test for Steve Rouse, the Edgbaston groundsmen, whose two most recent Test pitches were marked down, calling into question the future of international cricket in Birmingham.

ENGLAND A: A.J.Holfiske (Surrey, captain), M.A.Bairstow (Surrey), E.H.McGrath (Lancashire), M.P.Smith (Lancashire), A.McGrath (Yorkshire), M.A.Ebdon (Kent), W.Hegg (Lancashire), D.A.Cole (Leicester), G.Chapple (Lancashire), P.M.Smith (Essex), A.J.Hornby (Derbyshire), D.Brown (Durham), C.E.W.Silverwood (Yorkshire).

THIS REST: M.Ramprakash (Middlesex, captain), S.Laney (Hampshire), C.J.Adams (Dorset), R.J.Watson (Northamptonshire, wicket-keeper), V.S.Solanki (Worcestershire), D.A.Cole (Leicester), G.Holmes (Surrey), D.Lamb (Essex), A.Taylor (Nottinghamshire), J.E.Brown (Durham), C.E.W.Silverwood (Yorkshire).

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Students sent down with all guns blazing

BY JACK BAILEY

THE PARKS (final day of three): Durham beat Oxford by 97 runs

OXFORD University batted through all but the last 29 balls of a dramatic day, finally yielding to a near-irrantic Durham who, as the students' rearguard action wore on, must have wondered whether their first victory in first-class cricket since September 1995 would be denied them. Oxford finally went down, but they did so with most hands on deck and all flags flying, thanks to an extraordinary innings by Chetan Patel. In the context of playing for a draw, which was the best Oxford could reasonably expect, Patel's script was different.

Brown removed both Byrne and Fulton, after Collingwood had accounted for Lightfoot, and in mid-afternoon Oxford stood at 114 for five. Brown had taken four wickets for 30 and seemed primed to take on England A today. When Laughton was caught at slip,

Waqar Younis, the Pakistan fast bowler, has picked up a toe injury that is likely to delay his debut for Glamorgan, scheduled for the Benson and Hedges Cup match against Middlesex in Cardiff on May 2. Waqar will miss the two-Test series with Sri Lanka starting later this week.

Oxford began to look demoralised.

Patel, accompanied by Scrini, changed all that. His innings showed what could be done and, although Scrini and Averis did nothing that hinted of emulation, they played some pleasing strokes as the last 20 overs were ticked off one by one.

Averis was so overcome by the unexpected ease of it all that he took one chance too many. He lofted Boiling to long off with ten overs to go. Worse followed. Going for a second run to protect the vulnerable Mathier, a direct hit brought about Scrini's downfall. Although Bull came in to bat one-handed, the other being broken, Mathier's technique could not survive a straight ball from Boiling.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE PARKS

DURHAM: First Innings 253 for 2 dec (J.J. Lewis 210 not out, P.D.Collingwood 107)	E.J.How 90 (C.Patel 107)
Second Innings 144 for 13 dec (D.C.Brown 56)	J.Averis 10 (C.Patel 107)
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings 153 (A.Scrini 50 not out, J.G.Fulton 54, M.M.Brown 6)	J.J.Bull 6 (Averis 10)
Second Innings 105 (R.D.Hudson 100 not out, C.Patel 107)	J.Averis 10 (R.D.Hudson 100)
Total 258 for 11 (Averis 10)	Patel 107 (R.D.Hudson 100)
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-98, 2-44, 3-59, 4-74, 5-74, 6-74, 7-104, 8-145, 9-151.	10-151, 11-151, 12-151, 13-151.
BOWLING: Malcolm 16-3-16-0; Lightfoot 15-5-38-1; Rose 5-2-11-0; Walsh 13-5-38-1; Hooper 2-0-0.	DeFreitas 8-2-1-2; Clarke 7-1-23-1; Dean 10-2-21-2; Clark 1-1-0-0; Vandrap 1-1-0-0; Hayhurst 5-1-19-0.
DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 363 for 7 dec (A.S.Rolton 96 not out, D.M.Jones 58, P.Clarke 57; J.W.O.Freeth 4 for 101).	Umpires: A.Jones and M.R.Benson

Scoreboard from The Parks

*NEF Laughton c Collingwood b Boiling 1

C.Patel c Morris b Boiling 10

J.Averis run out 28

J.J.Bull c Morris b Boiling 21

D.P.Mathier lbw b Boiling 1

J.J.Bull not out 0

Total 258 for 11 (Averis 10)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-98, 2-44, 3-59, 4-74, 5-74, 6-74, 7-104, 8-145, 9-151.

BOWLING: Brown 23-25-25-1; Boiling 21-7-

43-0; Kileen 13-4-40-2; Collingwood 2-0-26-1; Boiling 20-1-8-21-3; Cox 11-5-11-1.

Umpires: J.H.Harms and N.A.Mallender

Scoreboard from The Parks

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BOWLING: Brown 23-25-25-1; Boiling 21-7-</p



Inspiring support: Chesterfield fans were in good voice as they roared on their team in the epic FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford on Sunday

Blue Army's grand day out

So, more things fall into place, certainly. In my own case, it was even worth driving 532 miles.

The irony was that I assumed I'd drawn the short straw with this semi-final; I'd been angling for a ticket to Highbury. It was only when I stopped at the services in Birmingham and thought "What? How? But surely?" that I suddenly realised my assignment to the North was nothing more than a diversionary tactic, preventing my middle-aged Chelsea Jinx Effect from inflicting further damage on a much-loved club (Chelsea supporters are everywhere in high places).

I wasn't expecting much, to be honest. Of the two teams, I knew nothing whatever of chirpy little Chesterfield, while moaning little Middlesbrough had started to get on my nerves.

Why can't Ravanelli find the goal? Nobody moves it, do they? If they want to win things, why don't they just get on with it? Why does Emerson bother getting the ball if he can't see anybody to pass it to? Things did not look promising and I took a lot of good music for the journey back.

But then Chesterfield got their balloons out, a brass band marched, the stadium thundered with that blam! staff. David Ellery's whistle blew and struggle commenced. Surrounded by heaving, happy Chesterfield fans, it felt slightly awkward to be sitting in a small, tense Boro enclave, its spiritual leader a vocal and excited boy

yelled again, when Middlesbrough fought back. Personally, I've never had it so good. In extra time, Festa scored what appeared to be the winning goal and, well, "Yes!" seemed again the appropriate shout. And then Chesterfield's Jamie Hewitt equalised in the 119th minute and "Yes!" just wasn't adequate any more. I nearly burst into tears.

The small boy looked a bit sick, but I didn't care. The ball's elegant trajectory, bouncing high off Hewitt and arcing in slow motion over the goalkeeper's head, was astonishingly beautiful. No wonder everybody went mad.

Back home in Chesterfield, the Saltergate ground holds 8,500. I did wonder, therefore, whether the 25,000 who turned up on Sunday were really what you might call hard core. On the other hand, what a good idea to co-opt happy, dancing supporters depending on cup success.

Unlike the Middlesbrough fans at Old Trafford, you see, the new fair-weather Spireites had every reason to be totally optimistic. Assuming they joined the blam! during the Cup run, some of these fans were not only strangers to defeat, but had never before seen their team concede a goal.

Compare the shredded nerves of Middlesbrough. Yes, they sang and waved in equal measure, but when the final whistle blew they just melted away, leaving Chesterfield to party on their own.

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

of ten asking for a clip round the ear. Usually it's quite easy to spot the underdog, but suddenly (what with this annoying but heroic child, and everything) it was confusing.

So I adopted a schizophrenic approach that meant that each goal was terrific and the final outcome of this multiple-orgasm match was totally satisfactory. Thus, when Middlesbrough's Vladimir Kinder was momentarily sent off, I could see both sides to the situation very happily. "Blam! blam!" I cheered. "Stand up, if you love Boro."

Supporting opposing teams is less of a strain on the psyche than you might expect and the great thing is that, whatever the outcome, you win. "Yes!" I squealed, when Chesterfield heroically went two goals ahead. "Er, yes, yes!" I

FOOTBALL

Liverpool remain positive

BY PETER BALL

BEFORE the event, Liverpool had proclaimed the Merseyside derby on Wednesday as a "must-win" game. In the event, they failed to get the win they wanted, dropping not only two points but also losing their striker, Robbie Fowler, from the final three games of the season after he was sent off for violent conduct.

Yesterday, Liverpool were putting a brave face on things. Roy Evans, the manager, reiterated his conviction, offered in the immediate aftermath of the game, that winning one point in a 1-1 draw from the visit to Goodison Park could prove invaluable and even questioned whether the "must-win" scenario has now transferred to the match tomorrow morning with the FA Carling Premiership leaders, Manchester United.

"That point keeps us right in it," he said. "If we don't win on Saturday, it will be a kick in the teeth, but it still doesn't come down to the game. We're in the middle of our difficult spell, but United still have theirs to come, with four games in eight days — and everyone is ignoring Arsenal; they are right in it too and have the easiest run-in."

Nevertheless, Liverpool could hardly avoid reflecting that, once again, with the opportunity beckoning to put pressure on United, they had shot themselves in the foot. Defensive uncertainties and missed chances let Everton back into the game after the visitors had dominated the early stages, mistakes compounded by the loss of Fowler.

Fowler, the Everton defender sent off for fighting with the Liverpool forward,

One minute the North Stand was full of red shirts, the next it was empty seats and the aroma of despair.

A quota of 25,000 tickets equates roughly with the Riverside's season-ticket holding; and while these blokes have certainly had a lot of football for their money this year, the hollow-eyed Dostoevskian look cries aloud for a holiday on the Planet Zog.

As they filed out on Sunday, I'm convinced that they knew they would lose to Leicester City on Wednesday. And now that they have really lost a cup — and Ravanelli has wept in public — things are just awful.

Middlesbrough supporters used to sing a chorus of *Que sera, sera*, which went (I think) "Que sera, sera. Start putting the beers on ice, we're going to Wembley twice, Che sera sera." That's called hubris, that is.

On a happier note, my drastic removal to the North West worked a treat as far as the Chelsea Jinx Effect is concerned, which means there is a half-chance that the FA Cup Final will now be a game of two blam! — a blam! Doubtless I will be banned from attending, but I shall not only watch it at home chanting "Vialli, Vialli!" even if he's not playing, but shall also register several stout votes for David Ginola, if only for old times' sake.

Have I Got News For You

BBC2, 10.00pm

The approach to a general election seems the ideal time to bring back Angus Deacon, Paul Merton and Ian Hislop, with the promise that if political balance has to be maintained it will only mean

RADIO CHOICE

Our Roving Reporter

Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

The mark of the broadcast reporter is that he or she is the product of a system. This creates professionalism, but there is a danger that it filters out personality. This is not some depressing modern trend, but what is different is that, now, it is hard to think of anyone in current affairs broadcasting who is quirky, one of the many approving words that could be applied to Pyle Robertson. He arrived on television's *Tonight* programme in the 1960s at the age of 55 with no previous experience, distinguished only by an ability to write well, a beard and a funny tweed hat. Through his new career he became a national treasure and this programme amply demonstrates the reasons why.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Pete Tong 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood 3.00am Charles Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 8.00 Wake Up to Wogan 10.00 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Robert Greggs 7.30 Friday Night 8.00 News from New York 9.00 Gyles Brandreth 10.00 BBC Concert Orchestra under Robert Stephenson 8.15 Last Orders. Read by George Cole 10.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 Sheridan Morley 12.00am Charles Nunn

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Report 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mai 2.00pm Russ on Five, Includes Sunday from Newbury 4.00 John Inverdale 7.00 News 7.30 7.45 Friday Sport with John Inverdale 8.00 Radio 5 Extra 8.30 Saturday 9.00 Saturday Concert 10.00 Neighbours 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport Report 11.15 Assignment 12.20pm Focus on Film 1.00 Business News 2.00 Saturday 3.00 Saturday 4.00 Saturday 4.45 Sports 3.00 Outside 3.25 Matchweek 4.05 Football Extra 4.15 Sheets of London 4.30 Science in Action 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business Report 5.45 Brain Today 6.15 The World Today 6.30 Record News 6.45 Sport 7.30 Reports from the Silk Road 8.00 Outlook 8.30 Sport for Thought 8.30 Multistack 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Brain Today 11.00 People and Politics 11.45 Saturday 12.00 Sunday 1.00 Outside 2.00pm The Virgin Chart Show 1.30 Turning a Tune 1.45 Brain Today 2.30 The Works 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.05 Business Report 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today 4.45 Off the Shelf

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Mandarin Books 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 Composer of the Month 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.15 Performance 9.30 John Peel 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Neighbours 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport Report 11.15 Assignment 12.20pm Focus on Film 1.00 Business News 2.00 Saturday 3.00 Saturday 4.00 Saturday 4.45 Sports 3.00 Outside 3.25 Matchweek 4.05 Football Extra 4.15 Sheets of London 4.30 Science in Action 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business Report 5.45 Brain Today 6.15 The World Today 6.30 Record News 6.45 Sport 7.30 Reports from the Silk Road 8.00 Outlook 8.30 Sport for Thought 8.30 Multistack 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Brain Today 11.00 People and Politics 11.45 Saturday 12.00 Sunday 1.00 Outside 2.00pm The Virgin Chart Show 1.30 Turning a Tune 1.45 Brain Today 2.30 The Works 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.05 Business Report 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today 4.45 Off the Shelf

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Miles Reid 9.00 Hall of Fame 10.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Eddison 9.15 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert 2.00 Piano Concerto No 1 in C major, K271 Beethoven's *Emperor* Concerto 3.00 Violin Concerto in D minor, K216 Bach (No 3 in G major, F minor) 4.00 Evening Concert Schubert's *Symphony No 3 in D* 10.00 Jane Marinkin 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto [R]

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ "n" Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyle (PM) 10.00 Alan Bennett 12.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

8.00am On Air, with Andrew McGrae, includes Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 2 in F, BWV 1048); Strauss (Symphony Domestica); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 10); Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue, original version); Elgar (Cello Concerto)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Smith. Includes Weber (Overture from The Indian Queen); Haydn (Piano Trios in E flat, HXVI); Mendelssohn (Concerto for Violin, Piano and Strings in D minor)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris de Souza. Includes Weber (Overture Oberon), Shostakovich (Kreutzer Sonata); Bach (transcribed Mortensen (Violin Partita in BWV1004); Howells (Agnes deodata); Missa Solemnis; Schubert (Five Minutes for Two); Brahms (Piano Sonata in C minor); Brahms (Double Concerto in A minor);

12.00 Composer of the Week: Forgotten Glories of the 18th-Century Opera. Paul Guerne introduces highlights from Nicolo Jommelli's drama *Arinda Abbandonata*

1.00 The Early Music Concert. Christopher De Soto introduces a concert by I Fagiolini. Plus a programme exploring the connections between early Renaissance French chansons and Italian madrigals. Featuring works by Josquin, Lassus, Arcadelt and Willaert

2.00 The Arts and Crafts. Michael Berkeley talks to John Tusa, chief executive of the Barbican Centre in London. Includes Verdi (Il Trovatore); Schubert (Piano Sonata in B flat, D860); Schubert (Schwanengesang) (r)

3.00 Mining the Archive. Sandy Burnside presents a concert from the 1996 season of Proms with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andris Nelsons. Includes Mozart (Masonic Funeral Music, K477)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, Includes Thought for the Day 6.50 Party Election Broadcast, by the Labour Party

9.00 News from New Zealand. Michael Edwards puts listener's questions to John Prescott, deputy leader of the Labour Party. Call 0245 514615 (r)

10.00 News; Our Roving Reporter. See Choice

10.30 Women's Hour, with Ruth Westhead. Serial: The Woman in a Box

11.30 The National Poetry Programme, Presented by Joanne Pharaoh

12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker

12.25pm Food Programme. Presented by Derek Cooper 12.55 Weather

1.00 The Archers (LW) with Nick Cloves

2.00 Classic Serial: Beside the Ocean of Time, by George Mackay Brown and dramatised by Stuart Corlett. Thorfinn's loss of Sophie and his father's marriage echo other changes in the island's life. With Peter Sellars (22) (r)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Louise Taylor

Dick Cook investigates some of history's more absurd electoral vicissitudes, including goats, pigs and corpses

4.00 MHz 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Mayliffe sees a double bill of new films from director Abel Ferrara, including *The Funeral* starring Christopher Walken

4.45 Steel Story: Squirrel, by Ian Grant. Staff of a company are shocked when the chairman appears dressed as managing director (r)

5.00 PM 5.55 Shopping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Growing Spaces. In the gardening magazine *Ed Stark and Guests* explore the treasures of the

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Pick of the Week. Chris Serle presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio and television debate from History. With Paul Foot, Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, Liz Lynne, Liberal Democrat spokeswoman on social security; Ruth Deech, principal of St Anne's College Oxford

8.00 The Children's Show. Christopher Cook continues his look at the lives of famous people and its effects on the film industry. George Orwell started audiences with screen magic beginning a trend for film-makers to visual the impossible (r)

9.15 Letter from America, by Alastair Cooke

9.30 The Big Picture. Brian Stimpson's re-examination of Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*. In the spirit of his most famous film, it's a wonderful life, the programme tries to imagine popular culture if Capra had never been born (r)

10.00 Week Ending, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Go-Betweens, by LP Hartley. Read by John Rowe (10/10)

11.25 The Twilight Zone, with Stephen Jones

11.45 The New Recruit: Traffic Wardens A retired warden discusses the nature of the job with a woman who has applied for her career (1/4) (r)

12.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes Choral Concert, Chamber Recital and at 5.00 Sequence

12.45 Stepping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

Answers from page 42
OPISTHENAR
(c) The back of the hand. In pronouncing, the stress falls on the *p*.
"Mum, you scream from the bathroom at 6.30 am, when she is only just beginning toumble towards wakefulness. 'I've got many little red spots all over my opisthenar.'"
UXORIOUS
(c) Excessively fond of a wife. From the Latin. There is nothing in the etymology that excludes the word's coverage of the wives of others. The equivalent word for women who are excessively fond of husbands: *maritarius*. Elizabeth Taylor is *uxorius*.

BORBORYGM
(c) The noise made by gas in the bowels. *Breaking wind*. Yes, a farz.
"Mum, Jamie's doing wind experience in Social Welfare Studies this term. He goes round a different suburb every Thursday afternoon leaving borborygm in phone boxes."

NAPALM
(b) Since Vietnam, we all know what napalm is. But did you know that the word is a portmanteau from *naphthalene* and *palmitate*? Of course not. Nor does your neighbour, the one with the three yapping Jack Russells in his garden. "Yes, I've noticed that the dogs seem very restless, John. Have you tried napthalene palmitate? I hear it's good for that sort of thing."

Ritual sacrifice of real life in EastEnders

You have to admire the audacity. To have an episode as silly and corny as last night's *EastEnders* (BBC1) and remain absolutely certain that what passes for real life in Walford will be seamlessly resumed next week takes real nerve. There was even a moment of almost genuine emotion, for goodness sake. "I just want you to know, son, that I love you very much," whispered Frank (Mike Reid) in one of his fleeting, fly-by-day appearances. "I'm very happy for you." Blink and you missed him... but at least you could see again.

But already I'm in danger of starting at the end, of jumping straight to the vintage *Carry On* gaggle that Barbara Windsor had been saving for the occasion. Ricky and Bianca's big day, you see, had finally dawned, or, to be strictly accurate, had half-past-eight. Bianca awoke in her own bed, nursing a modest hang-over which

was instantly soothed by the arrival of a morning cup-of-tea. Ricky awoke in a field, accompanied by Grant, Phil and Nigel.

You could tell this wasn't real life because all four were in far better shape than anybody who had been drinking heavily until three in the morning could expect to be. Sure, Grant went through the motions: "I've got a throe like a coalmother's jockstrap," but you could tell their headaches weren't really in it. Nigel even managed a bit of French.

"Je suis un hovercraft," he explained, in the mistaken belief that they were either in France or a long-lost episode of *'Allo, 'Allo. Turned out they were in Kent. The question was (as the question always is) would they get Ricky to the church on time. Of course they did — thanks to a farmer straight out of *Cold Comfort Farm*, a vintage tractor (at one point overtaken by a bicycle) and an obliging*

lorry driver, they got there with absolutely no minutes to spare. "Round again, round again," urged Mark, as the bride's car arrived before the groom's truck.

The knot, however, was eventually tied, but only after Ricky and Phil's ties were belatedly knotted. And only after an impromptu and possibly ill-advised group therapy session led by the right-on, good-looking vicar. He hoped Ricky and Bianca's vows would "remind some of you of the vows you have taken" (Kathy looked at Phil). Tiffany glanced at Grant and Carol smiled at Alan. Pat looked confused. Thank goodness David hadn't made it — we'd have been there all night.

As the happy couple exited the church, Bianca wrinkled her pretty, newly-married nose: "Can you smell something?" Ricky couldn't, but I swear I caught a lingering whiff of cod... with perhaps just a

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

hint of baloney. As for next week's resumption of real life that I promised you earlier — forget it. I'd forgotten about Dot Cotton. I wish I had forgotten about *Keeping Mum* (BBC1) but unfortunately it's one of those sitcoms that seems to stay with you, in that I-can't-believe-anybody-thought-this-would-be-funny sort of way. Last night, it made the most depressing sitcom debut since

Next of Kin, which for anybody who might have forgotten was the one about the three children orphaned by a car crash and brought up by their ghastly grandparents. By contrast, *Keeping Mum* is the one about the elderly mother (Stephanie Cole) displaying the early symptoms of senility and her two sons, the nice but feeble one (Martin Ball) who looks after her and the nasty but successful one (David Haig) who doesn't. Sounds great, eh?

Perhaps there is an army of long-suffering carers out there who think jokes about electric kettles on gas-rings, making cheese-on-toast in toasters and spraying deodorant on geraniums are funny? Perhaps it will cash in on the inexplicable success of *Forrest Gump*? Perhaps a second (and even third) series will be commissioned, just like *Next of Kin*. Then again...

Apparently, it's an adaptation of

an Australian series, but in relocating to Bristol the producers have inadvertently ruined it. I'm sure — echoed the structure of the Peter Nichols play, *Born in the Garden*. It, too, was about an elderly, batty mother who lived with her weary, middle-aged son and it, too, gained mileage from the Brisolian habit of adding additional "I"s to words. But it was seriously funny, while *Keeping Mum* is seriously not. Bit of a fiasco, really.

Like Mrs P (I still treasure the memory of the afternoon she brought her ears in to show us), Matzinger was a game girl, quite happy to exploit her modestly racy past, her happy-chick looks and her breathless, Rita Rudner delivery style, if it helped get her message over. And help it did. While some of the fey establishing scenes seemed gratuitous, I suspect many of us would not have made it to the end of her complex and contentious theory of immunology without it.

Fittingly, her breakthrough moment (when she realised that things that are dangerous are things that cause damage) came in the bath. "I jumped out of the bath, totally naked, dripping water all over the house... Science hadn't been this much fun for... ooh, about 20 years.

exquisite... even if the scientific conclusions were just a little frustrating.

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6.00am Business Breakfast (22963)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (70533760)
9.05 Election Call Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, John Prescott answers viewers' questions. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (2232031)
10.00 Style Challenge (81031)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (62321)
11.00 News (1) regional news and weather (442885)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (9962586)
11.35 Change That (6386780)
12.00 News (1) regional news and weather (4169363)
12.05 Call My Bluff (5748692)
12.35 Good Living (9579983)
1.00 News (1) and weather (37708)
1.30 Regional News and Weather (50116147)
1.45 The Weather Show (38607854)
1.50 Neighbours (1) (2253432)
2.15 <i>Quincy</i> The illegal burial of typhoid victims threatens to contaminate water supplies in Los Angeles (3649215)
3.00 Through the Keyhole With guests Russ Williams, Diane Youdale and Roy Walker (5673)
3.30 Mouse and Mole (5986545) 3.35 Playdays (1) (6883944) 3.35 Badger and Badger (1) (6844056) 4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1) (8974963) 4.25 Classics Explains It All (1) (7208683) 5.00 Newscast (1) (6957012) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (6182853)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (832857)
6.00 News (1) and weather (741)
6.30 Regional News (1) (743050)
6.55 Election Broadcast: Natural Law Party (788383)
7.00 Big Break Jimmy White joins Matthew Stevens and Darren Morgan as they do battle on the baize. Hosted by Jim Davidson and John Virgo (1) (7654)
7.30 Top of the Pops A rundown of the latest hits, including new videos, pre-chart sounds and live performances (1) (705)
8.00 Porridge Godber enters the world of boxing and proves to be pretty good — until certain people decide it would be best all-round if he took a fall in the prison championships (1) (7) (632)
8.30 A Question of Sport David Coleman asks the questions in the light-hearted quiz as regulars Ally McCool and John Penotti lead the teams of sporting celebrities vying for victory (1) (5437)
9.00 News (1) and weather (4031)
10.00 Papillon (1973) with Steve McQueen, Dustin Hoffman, Anthony Zerbe and Don Gordon. Semifictitious account of an innocent man jailed for murder, who dreams of escaping from the notorious Devil's Island. Directed by Franklin Schaffner (1) (167234)
12.25 Plaza Suite (1971) with Walter Matthau, Maureen Stapleton and Barbara Harris. Matthau appears as three different characters in a trio of sketches set in the same room at New York's luxurious Plaza Hotel. Adaptation of Neil Simon's stage comedy. Directed by Arthur Hiller (409762)
2.15-2.20 Weather (3099161)

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6.00am O.U.: North Sea: Managing the Common Pool (226673) 6.25

Environment: Living with Drought (6605708) 7.15 See Hear News (1) and signing (6820585) 7.30 Teenage Turtles (1) (404741) 7.55 50/50 (1) (5506215)

8.25

Garden Fairies (302576) 8.25

Tooth Fairies (7004437) 8.30 Racoons (1) (9742673) 8.35 French Experience (6837437) 8.15 French Collection (7021315) 9.45 Watch (2007692) 10.30 Home and weather (6857) 10.30 Watch Out (2223499) 10.45 Pathways of Belief (2211654) 11.00 Look and Read (4496823) 11.20 Believe It (7891760)

11.40 Mathematics (6929587) 12.00 English File (51215) 12.30 pm Working Lunch (88857) 1.00 Job Bank (1.20 Developing World (64958587) 1.45 Words and Pictures (5010294) 2.00 Garden Fairies (1) (3703732) 2.05 Tooth Fairies (1) (3703657) 2.10 A-Z of Food (1) (4295147)

2.25

Racing from Newbury The 2.40; 3.10

and 3.40 races (6846012) 3.55 News (1) 4.00 Blockbusters (6511321) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (6521708) 4.45 Esther (9680741) 5.30 Today's Day (470)

6.00 The Simpsons (1) (9365673)

6.20 Star Trek (1) (7) (671470)

7.10

Timewatch: Back to the Iron Age (1) (59296)

8.00 A Golfer's Travels with Peter Alliss in South Africa where he meets Gary Sobers, F.W. De Klerk and Gary Player (1) (4944)

8.30 Gardeners' World Alan Titchmarsh builds an arbour, and Guy Search visits Columbo Road flower market in London. Plus, Steven Lacy's third report from Holland (1) (3079)

9.00

I've Got News for You (1)

Paul Merton and Ian Hislop are joined by environmental activist Swampy (5031)

9.30

Have I Got News for You (1)

Shane Richie (1) (6050)

12.00 Coronation Street (1) (7) (74316)

1.00

Meridian Tonight (789)

7.00 Lucky Numbers Game show hosted by

Shane Richie (1) (6050)



Hilshift and Barrie (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street Alma (Amanda Barrie) faces a nightmare taxi ride with Don (Geoff Hirsh) (1) (20586)

8.30 The Bill: Parklife Loxton and Keane are drawn into the bizarre nightlife in a Sun Hill park while investigating the burglary at a chemist's and a stabbing incident (1) (5555)

9.00

The Grand Period drama charting the lives and loves of the staff and residents of a swish hotel between the wars. Stephen steals money from the hotel to finance his romantic and social life (1) (6499)

10.00 News (1) and weather (49470)

10.30 Election Broadcast: Natural Law Party (1) (647680)

9.30 Sunnydale Farm First of a six-part sitcom about two brothers attempting to escape a living on a farm. Starring Phil Daniels, Michael Kitchen, Mark Addy and Bath Goddard (1) (9121)

10.00

Space: Above and Beyond Conclusion of a two-part story (924316)

12.00

This Time (1) (6773451)

1.05 Here on Earth (1) (6773451)

1.30

Meridian Tonight (789)

2.00

Coronation Street (1) (7) (74316)

2.30

TAXI (1)

3.00

Meridian Tonight (789)

4.00

Coronation Street (1) (7) (74316)

4.30

Meridian Tonight (789)

5.00

Meridian Tonight (789)

6.00

Meridian Tonight (789)

7.00

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9.30

Sunnydale Farm First of a six-part sitcom about two brothers attempting to escape a living on a farm. Starring Phil Daniels, Michael Kitchen, Mark Addy and Bath Goddard (1) (9121)

10.00

Newsnight (1) (6577249)

11.00

After Dark (1) (6577249)

12.00

Coronation Street (1) (7) (74316)

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Meridian Tonight (789)

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